

How are funds from a permanent improvement levy used?

A permanent improvement levy provides funds that can only be used for capital expenditures with a useful life of five years or more. The levy will be used to maintain, repair, and upgrade the district's school buildings and grounds; to purchase technology hardware, furniture, and other equipment; to improve security systems; and to fulfill recent legislative mandates related to facilities. While our older school buildings are more difficult to maintain, their basic structures are solid and, if cared for properly, will continue to provide many more years of service to our community.

In the past five years, what projects have been completed with permanent improvement funds?

The school district faces many of the same repair issues as homeowners do when maintaining or upgrading their properties. For schools, there are also significant changes in the law, in building and fire codes, and in electrical needs for current technology. Here are some examples of permanent improvement projects completed in the past five years.

- **Electrical Systems** – Electrical panels and circuits were upgraded in both schools.
- **Plumbing Fixtures** – Restroom faucets were replaced to encourage proper hand washing and improve sanitary conditions. A women's restroom in the high school was renovated.
- **New Roofs** – Sections of the elementary roof were replaced. A three-year project to replace the high school roof was completed this summer.
- **Walls and Chimney** – The elementary school chimney was rebuilt. A flue liner was added. Tuck-pointing was completed. A structural crack in the 1991 addition at the elementary school was repaired.
- **Windows** – Glass block windows were repaired or replaced. Classroom blinds were installed to improve security and regulate heat/light. Shatterproof glass was installed at the elementary.
- **Interior Lighting** – Main hall and classroom lighting was upgraded at the elementary school. New lighting, ceiling fans, and dropped ceilings were installed in classrooms at the high school.
- **Accessibility** – Classroom doors and hardware were replaced to meet current fire codes and ADA standards.
- **Safety** – Classroom doors that can be locked from the inside were installed. Alarm and sprinkler systems were upgraded at the high school. Exterior doors were repaired or replaced. Entry doors were numbered for security purposes. Outdoor signage was improved. The exhaust system in the industrial technology lab was replaced.
- **Outside Maintenance** – Grading was improved to prevent water seepage into both buildings. Storm sewer repairs were completed. Damaged trees were removed. Landscaping was improved.
- **Concrete Work** – Concrete porches, slabs, steps, and walks were repaired or replaced. New walks were installed in high traffic areas.
- **Technology** – Computers, SMARTboards, and other hardware were purchased. Network infrastructure was upgraded.



How does the school district determine project and spending priorities?

Maintenance, repair, and upgrade decisions are guided by three major sources.

- The Facilities Advisory Committee, knowledgeable community residents with expertise in construction and maintenance, has enabled the district's staff to better evaluate and prioritize projects.
- The Ohio Facilities Commission (OFC) completed a district assessment report in 2001.
- School Vulnerability Assessments (SVA) were completed in 2006.

What are some of the planned expenditures for the proposed 1.5 mill levy?

- **HVAC Systems** – Repair, replace, and upgrade heating and ventilation equipment to conserve energy, improve comfort, and reduce costs.
- **Safety** – Upgrade security systems. Add exterior lighting. Fulfill health and safety requirements in Jarod's Law. Implement recommendations in SVA.
- **Site Condition** – Repair/repave the elementary and high school parking lots. Repair concrete porches and sidewalks.
- **Exterior Doors** – Continue to repair or replace damaged exterior doors and locking mechanisms.
- **Interior Maintenance** – Continue a schedule of painting and plaster repair in classrooms and hallways. Remodel restrooms. Install countertops and add shelving in selected classrooms. Replace lockers. Install ceiling fans and dropped ceilings in selected classrooms.
- **Interior Lighting** – Improve lighting in classrooms, music room, and second floor and junior high hallways at the high school.
- **Floors** – Replace flooring in classrooms, halls, locker rooms, multipurpose room at the high school, and new gym at the elementary.
- **Technology** – Upgrade technology to provide students with skills needed in the global marketplace.
- **Athletic Facilities** – Contribute to the stadium field project. Resurface track. Replace sound system and lighting in high school main gym. Implement a long-term master plan for grounds maintenance.

What is the cost of the 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy to Village homeowners?

A current five-year 1.5 mill permanent improvement levy, originating in 2003, expires on December 31, 2008. The expiring levy must be renewed or replaced. The board decided to replace it with another 1.5 mill levy for permanent improvements. This levy is Issue 29 on the November 4 ballot. Collection will begin in January 2009.

Because it is a replacement, the levy will be based on current property values. For owners of a \$300,000 home, it would mean an increase of about \$13 per year in property taxes. The new levy will be in effect for four years, rather than the current five-year time period.

What should you do if you have questions?

Questions may be directed to the superintendent through email at oh_s@nwoca.org or phone at 419-536-6371. You may also visit the levy website at www.voteforOHSchools.org.

The Ottawa Hills School District is recognized across the state for excellence in its academic programs. Our school buildings and grounds provide a safe, healthy, engaging learning environment. They are also valuable community assets. Due to the age of these facilities, it is necessary to maintain, repair, and periodically update them to ensure their safety and adequacy for Village children. This brochure provides information about the replacement of a **1.5 mill permanent improvement levy on the November 4 ballot.**



Passing the permanent improvement levy will provide funds to:

- **Maintain and improve the district's buildings and grounds**
- **Continue to upgrade technology**
- **Install building security systems**
- **Assure compliance with current law and codes**
- **Preserve a valuable community asset**

For more information visit our levy website:
www.voteforOHschools.org

Vote YES on Issue 29 1.5 mill Replacement Levy for Permanent Improvements

Vote *YES* for Ottawa Hills Schools on Issue 29

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