

Chardon Local Schools  
428 North Street  
Chardon, OH 44024

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CHARDON, OH  
PERMIT #13

## Universal Design for Learning



Removing obstacles to learning with intentionality, is the mantra of Universally Designed Learning (UDL). Beginning this school year, with a \$100,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Education, Chardon Local Schools staff are studying the principles of UDL, and implementing those practices within their classrooms. "It's about holding all students to high standards," stated Greg Fronk, social studies teacher at Chardon High School, "and providing multiple pathways for them to demonstrate their knowledge of those high standards."

Over the course of the 2018–2019 school year, Chardon teachers have been learning from national experts on UDL, observing classrooms, and revising lessons to study the effects of UDL on student achievement.

"Our mission as a District, is high achievement for all students," stated Ed Klein, Ph.D., assistant superintendent. "Through our work with UDL we are working to eliminate barriers for students, so that all students can demonstrate high achievement."

## openlines

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## WATER FOR SOUTH SUDAN



This past fall, Chardon Middle School sixth grade Language Arts teachers read aloud the book *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park to their classes. The book is based on the real-life experi-

ences of Salva Dut, one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan," who fled his war-torn country and eventually came to the United States. Dut founded the charity Water for South Sudan as a way to give back to his country and provide people with clean drinking water.

In October 2018, students had the opportunity to participate in a live stream with Salva Dut and author Linda Sue Park. In addition, sixth graders participated in water-themed activities on Water Day as they learned more about the struggles others face and how individuals can make a difference in the world.

Sixth graders raised over \$1,500 for Water for South Sudan through various fundraisers, including a Stall the Teacher coin drive. The money raised will help drill and maintain wells in South Sudan, which improves health and gives children in South Sudan the opportunity to attend school.



## Career & Job Fair Scheduled for March 1

**I**n order to facilitate connecting students and local companies, Chardon Local Schools will be hosting a Career & Job Fair

on Friday, March 1, 2019 at Chardon High School. The event will be the culminating activity of the district's day long focus on college and career pathways. Students in all grade levels, and in all school buildings throughout the district, will be exploring the 4 E's: Education, Employment, Enlistment, and Entrepreneurship.

The Career & Job Fair is collaborative venture between the Chardon Local Schools, OH Means Jobs and RB Sigma, Inc., with assistance and support from the Chardon Chamber of Commerce and the Geauga Growth Partnership.

Chardon Local Schools developed the Career & Job Fair as a response to both the needs of graduating students and area employers. "We want students to have an awareness of all of their options for the future," said Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D, superintendent of Chardon Local Schools. "Each student, each person, should recognize the 4 E's and consider the pathway that is right for him or herself."

Organizations exhibiting at the Job & Career Fair will have the opportunity to interview potential candidates for internships and job opportunities. Additionally,

organizations exhibiting will have the opportunity to network with graduating students entering the workforce, students continuing with career exploration, and the community-at-large for potential employment and engagement.

*Organizations interested in exhibiting at the Job & Career Fair should contact Corine Casalina ([corine.casalina@chardonschools.org](mailto:corine.casalina@chardonschools.org) or call 440-285-4052) or check out the registration information at [www.chardonschools.org](http://www.chardonschools.org).*



# openlines

## Comprehensive Review of K–3 Literacy Program

Teachers and tutors throughout the District, but specifically serving kindergarten through third grade, have been engaged with a comprehensive review of literacy instruction. Led by Kelly Moran, Ed.D., curriculum supervisor, staff are revising literacy instruction throughout the District.

“Teaching reading is more than teaching strategies and literature,” stated Dr. Moran. “In order to effectively support the progressive skills of reading development, and cultivate life-long readership, students must effectively learn phonics and decoding, as well as continuously develop content knowledge.”

As part of her efforts overseeing state and federal programming for the District, Dr. Moran is leading teachers and tutors in review of research-based literacy practices. In addition, staff are reviewing curricular materials, engaging as small groups in digital professional learning experiences, and setting goals to serve as the basis of a newly developed comprehensive literacy plan.



“Solid literacy instruction begins with an understanding of the standards and best practices,” stated Moran. “This is why we are investing time for teachers to discuss the latest findings in brain research and identifying the elements of what sound reading instruction looks like.”

Building committees have been established to evaluate current literacy practices and create an established framework defining what the District believes should be the defining characteristics of a literate Hilltopper. Additionally, teachers will engage in site visits to observe other literacy educators in action, and brainstorming how the District can offer more literacy based family events outside of the school day.



## Implementation of Lean Six Sigma Training for Staff and Students

Chardon Local Schools have implemented training for both students and staff in Lean Six Sigma. Lean Six Sigma is a systematic means of process improvement and waste reduction. It focuses on improving systems and processes in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. Pioneered by Toyota Corporation, Lean and Six Sigma continue to be applied for the benefit of organizations in many industries across the globe.

Over three days in October, a team of teachers, support staff, and administrators from Chardon School District, trained in the implementation of

In addition to applying Lean to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of school district operations, Chardon Local Schools will be offering certification in Lean Six Sigma to students at Chardon High School.

Beginning in November, 2018, students at Chardon High School had the opportunity to earn certification in Basics of Lean. Over the course of the next two years, Chardon Schools plans for the additional implementation of Yellow Belt and Green Belt certification in Six Sigma. Chardon Local Schools will be the second school in the state of Ohio to offer programming in Lean Six Sigma.

“Our objective is to empower people . . . to continuously improve; professionally and personally,”

—JUSTIN BLOYD, President of RB Sigma

Lean thinking. RB Sigma, Inc., a continuous and process improvement company located in Mentor, Ohio, conducted the training. “Our objective is to empower people and organizations to continuously improve; professionally and personally,” stated Justin Bloyd, President of RB Sigma.

Returning to their roles within the district, staff and administrators have been applying the training to the district operations. “Utilizing the Six Sigma problem solving tools and techniques has helped to create a climate for our employees to be more self-motivated,” stated Steve Kofol, assistant superintendent for business affairs for Chardon Local Schools.

Six Sigma, which focuses on process improvement, is an industry-standard for operational efficiency. Individuals earn certification as they learn the theory and skills of process improvement and implement those in projects for organizational improvement.

Focusing on training in Lean Six Sigma, students at Chardon High School will learn with Master Black Belts from several area companies representing a variety of industries. Among these companies, who are offering internships to Chardon students as they complete training in Lean Six Sigma, are PCC Airfoils, Lincoln Electric, Rockwell Automation, Fredon.



Chardon High School students worked in teams to conduct various manufacturing simulations during their Basics of Lean training.

# DESIGNING *our Future*

## School Facilities Planning Update

*The Chardon Local School District began discussions concerning possible replacement of school facilities in 2016.*



### **Meetings with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission led to the following:**

- Assessment of all Chardon Local School District (CLSD) instructional facilities by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC). These assessments led to recommendations by the OFCC that the replacement of existing school facilities was more cost effective than renovation based on overall needs identified in each building.
- Completion of updated enrollment projections for CLSD indicating a continuing decline in enrollment, with the projection of a 10 percent reduction in enrollment by 2026.
- Formulation of the district's Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) comprised of parents, community leaders, Board of Education members, educators, and school design professionals to begin evaluating options for the school district.
- Evaluation of the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission's Equity Ranking List which determines both the timing of eligibility for the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP) and the amount of State funds offered to the district. It was determined, based on the district's equity ranking, that CLSD will be eligible for an approximate 9 percent state share for eligible co-funded expenditures. Further, it is estimated that CLSD will become eligible for CFAP (state funding) in 2026.
- A decision to participate in the OFCC's Expedited Local Partnership Program. Under ELPP, qualifying school construction expenditures made prior to CFAP eligibility (state funding) will then be accurately credited to the school district.
- Development of a conceptual Master Plan (MP) for CLSD completed collaboratively with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, design professionals, and CLSD (through the Facilities Advisory Committee).

### **This Master Plan recommends the following:**

- Construction of a new PreK–5 facility and Construction of a new 6–12 facility

### **Consideration of the following Locally-funded Initiatives:**

- Construction of a 700-seat Performing Arts Auditorium
- Construction of a new Transportation Compound (assuming relocation of the current facility from the Chardon High School site)
- Renovations to the existing football stadium and track complex, as well as construction of additional baseball and softball fields; or
- Construction of a new football stadium and track complex, as well as construction of additional baseball and softball fields. This option would be considered if the current athletic facility sites were needed to complete the PreK–5/6–12 academic plan as described above.

*During this planning process, the Facilities Advisory Committee also carefully considered that the school district was facing a serious reduction in general operating funds due to school funding cuts by the Ohio Legislature. As a result, in May 2017, the FAC recommended to the Board of Education that the primary focus should remain on stabilizing the operating budget for the school district and tabling further discussion of master planning and new facilities construction until a later time. The district successfully passed a 3.9 mill operating levy in May 2018 and returned to consideration of new school facilities.*

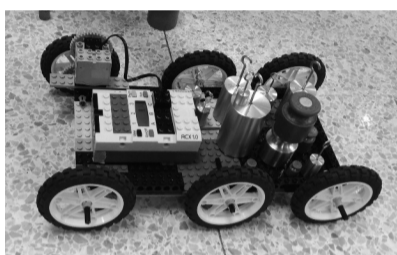
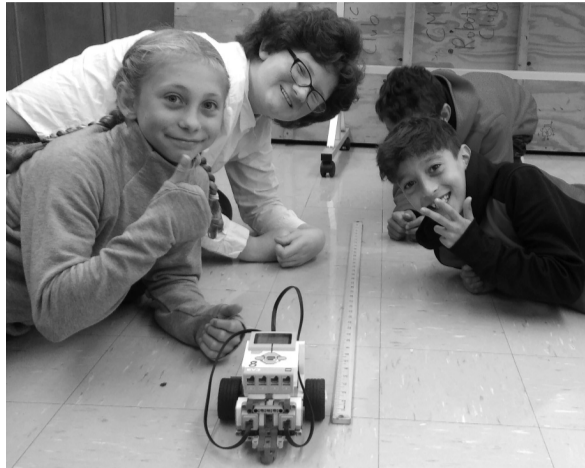
### **Current Facilities Planning Work**

The FAC was reconvened in July 2018 and has continued to meet to consider new school facilities for the district. From the time committee work resumed to the present, the following has been completed:

- Updated district Master Plan to reflect current trends in school construction costs
- Requested the OFCC to update the district's enrollment projection
- Site visitation to the North Olmsted City Schools to observe first-hand a grades 6–12 facility design and operation
- Fallon Research surveyed a sample of registered voters in December 2018 to evaluate receptivity to a school construction project
- Reviewed all funding options for the district's school construction project including state funds, a new bond issue, and possible use of the district's Permanent Improvement Fund to provide partial funding, and; Recommended to the Board of Education a November 2019 ballot issue to fund a new Grades 6–12 building to replace the current high school.



# Reconfiguration Update



*The 2018–2019 school year is a historical one for the Chardon Local Schools, with the District reconfiguration of school buildings and grade-levels completed this past summer. Students in kindergarten through third grade now attend either Park or Munson Elementary Schools, students in fourth through seventh now attend Chardon Middle School, and students in eighth through twelfth now attend Chardon High School. Additionally, the District now operates a Preschool at Maple Elementary School.*

Designed as a means of addressing declining student enrollment, the District anticipates annual savings of \$2.1 million as a result of reconfiguration of school buildings and grade-levels.

“Reconfiguration of the District was a monumental undertaking,” stated Michael P. Hanlon, Jr., Ph.D., superintendent. “Through these efforts, our District is not only realizing substantive savings, but we have been able to expand our programming and benefits for our students.”

As a result of the District’s efforts with reconfiguration, curricular programming has expanded to include STEM, computer science, and world language introduction for students in grades 4–7; and courses in leadership, entrepreneurship, communication, and critical thinking at the high school. Additionally, the District has engaged in a comprehensive review of literacy instruction at all grades.

“Our students have been engaged in very real, and very purposeful, learning with very cool projects,” stated Brent Hilston, STEM teacher at Chardon Middle School. “We’re excited for the opportunities for all of our students to learn and apply scientific principles in a design setting.”

Enrollment in the District, similar to local and state-wide trends, is projected to continue declining over the next several years.

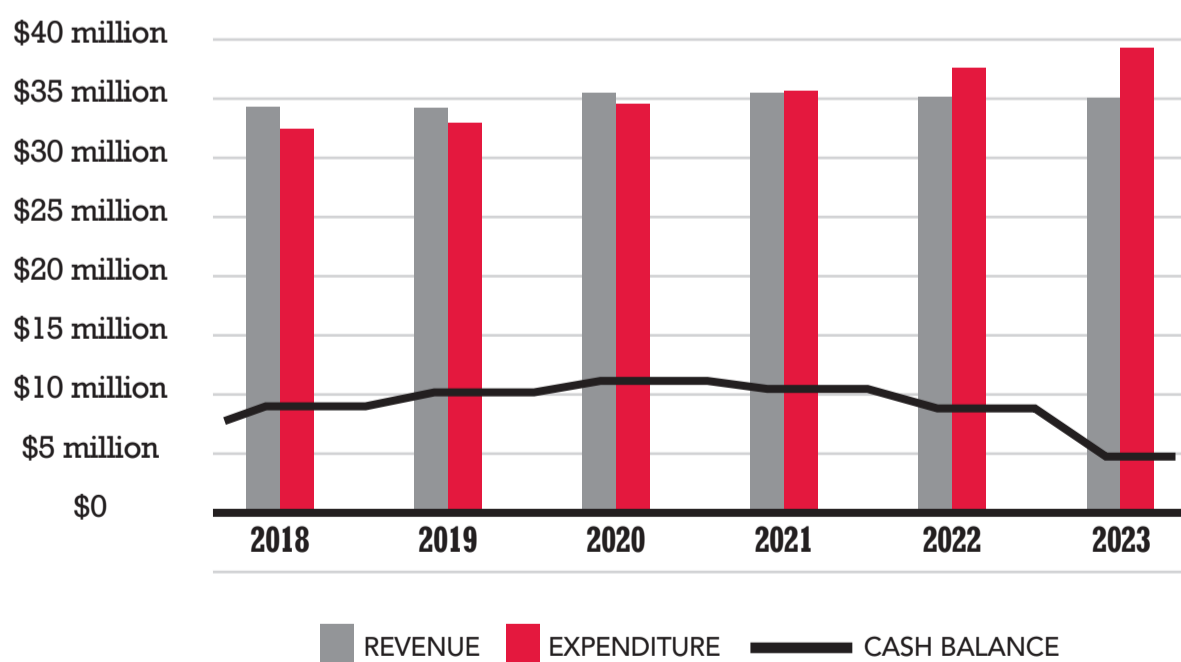
The District has convened a community-based committee to study District facilities, and consider planning of facilities for the future.

# Five-Year Forecast Financial Report

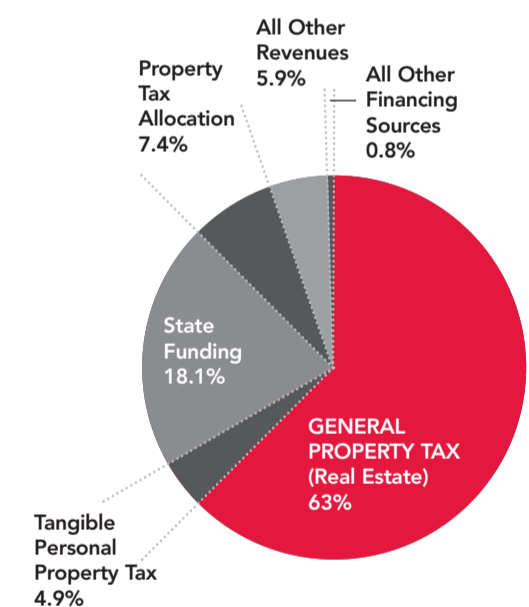
**October 2018** It is important to note that the five-year forecast is an estimate. The financial climate for Ohio schools is constantly changing, and there are numerous, and often unpredictable, variables that exist when projecting school revenue and expenditures. Because of this, the five-year forecast tends to be a “moving target” and should be expected to change from year to year. The five-year forecast represents only the General Fund of the District and is only as accurate as the information that was available at the time it was prepared. The current forecast estimates an ending unencumbered fund balance of \$4,636,010 at the end of fiscal year 2023. It should be noted that current estimates also show the District deficit spending by more than \$4 million by fiscal year 2023. Thus, given current estimates, the District would be in a negative cash balance situation by the next fiscal year, 2024.

## REVENUE VS. EXPENDITURE AND EFFECT ON CASH BALANCE

Fiscal Years 2018–2023



## REVENUE



## EXPENDITURES

