

November 2016

I would like to begin my report by thanking the Board of Education and the community for their respective support of Issue 113 at the polls earlier this month. By passing this renewal levy, the school district can be assured of important funding for transportation costs, building and facility maintenance, educational programming, textbooks and technology, safety and security and other resources for the next 10 years. Of course, campaigns are not run in a vacuum, and this one was spearheaded by a dedicated group of people who helped to:

- Raise several thousand dollars, with their generous participation in various fundraisers
- Mail to all absentee voters to make sure they received the message
- Put up yard signs
- Wrote letters-to-the-editors
- And spread the good word about supporting this issue

I would also like to publicly thank Mayor Vic Collova, as well as Council President Suster, and Councilmen Dudley, Nenadovich, Lamalfa, Burke and Vaugh for their public support of Issue 113. It was a team effort.

Next, I'd like to share with the board the wonderful engagements that our students have had with senior citizens in the community over the last 30 days. First, with some special programming at Jennings Hall, our high school Forensics Class took a field trip to listen to a speaker who came and talked with senior citizens and our students about Crime in Cleveland in the 1930s. Just last week, about 50 senior citizens came to our Center for Performing Arts to watch a preview of Mr. Benjamin's Theater Group, which performed Rumors. Simply put, the senior citizens absolutely love coming to our theater to watch our students perform. And, in a very moving tribute, our friends at Jennings Hall invited Maple Leaf students to their facility on Veterans Day, to help present the flags of the different branches of service as well as read a personal essay on why Veterans are important to them. All I can say is that everyone on the Board would have been very proud to see our students in action.

One final important item that the Board of Education should know about is a recent and more formalized relationship that the schools have entered into with Overdrive. With the help of Shari Bailey and LeeAnn Reiland, Overdrive has donated a software for our Middle School students that they are sharing with school districts across the country... and that has a value of \$500. The schools are planning a formal ceremony, to which the Board of Education will be invited in the near future. Thank you to Overdrive for their generosity.

Finally, Happy Thanksgiving to the Board, and to the entire family of the Garfield Heights City Schools.

Thank you for your continued support, and as always...

GO BULLDOGS!

Terry Olszewski

Superintendent of Schools