

## **PRESS RELEASE - West Holmes Local School District August 2023**

West Holmes is taking operating money and shifting it to permanent improvements to finance a new building. The district will be decreasing operating expenses going from four elementary buildings down to one elementary building, to allow this opportunity to construct a building without increasing taxes. This process will result in a reduction in the 2024 calendar year tax bill for those that have not added any structures to their property since the prior year tax assessment. The district will reduce operating expenses by consolidating to one centralized elementary school while providing the following benefits:

- Increase time for one to one student care by psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, and school nurse.
- Provide more options for parents for child care by providing bus service outside of their current elementary school area where they are limited to now.
  - Example: Killbuck parent can drop child off on way to work to a provider in Millersburg or Nashville to then get a bus to the elementary whereas today they have to pick a provider in their elementary school area for busing.
- Safety concerns are minimized with secure entrances and a full-time deputy on campus at all times with modern safety cameras.
- Modern fire safety systems and sprinklers.
- Modern heating and cooling systems with proper air filtration.
- Modern lighting and new classrooms with latest technology to prepare students for the 21st century.
- Provide grade level collaboration and common planning time for improved instruction.
- Centralize resources for art, physical education, and music to allow more classroom time in place of travel time.
- Create a building designed for our special needs students and accessibility to all parts of the building.
- Improve layout of cafeteria, making them more functional and efficient.
- Allow for allocation of building staff to regulate class sizes and improve efficiency of the use of services by personnel.
- Maximizing personnel leads to decreased operating costs and increased services (regular, special, and gifted) with three buildings closer in proximity.
- Decrease overall utility expenses, maintenance costs, and operating expenses required of one versus four buildings.
- Allow the district to right size the footprint to reduce the long-term burden on taxpayers.

## Reallocate Millage

Transfer 2.9 Mills from operating to permanent improvements

2.9 Mills

**TAX  
INCREASE**

Stop collection on 2 operating levies + bond issue expiring

3.72 Mills

**TAX  
DECREASE**

## SUMMARY

2024 annual tax bill will go down \$25 per \$100,000 in property value if no improvements/buildings were added to your property this year.

**We will build a Kindergarten through 5th grade building without needing a new levy from our community.**

Please reach out to Eric Jurkovic and/or Jamie Mullet at (330) 674-3546 if you would like to have a further discussion.