

Lexington

10 Years Ranked "Excellent"

Staff Update

March 20, 2014

From the office of the Treasurer...

All Staff

- The district will make-up calamity days with students on June 4, 5, 6, and 9. You will receive more information and clarification on the calamity make-up from Mr. Ziegelhofer.

\$\$\$ Financial Information:

Some things you may be surprised to learn:

- January's electric bill was \$50,057
- The new boiler at Central cost \$36,980
- Our 2013-14 estimated net cost to provide services to preschoolers at Mid-Ohio ESC is \$218,000.
- 260 students who live in the Lexington School District have chosen a school option elsewhere (open enrollment, parochial school, home school, community school, or online). Jeremy Secrist and Kevin Young surveyed those parents and obtained some useful information for the District.

Useful? Information:

What singer said "hello" to the world with *Greetings from Asbury Park, N.J.* on January 5, 1973?

Bruce Springsteen

What type of dog was President George Bush's family dog *Millie*?

A Springer Spaniel

In what city was basketball invented in 1891?

Springfield, MA



Guess what just arrived? ☺

Communications Plan:

As we work to improve communications with residents and staff, I am asking for suggestions on financial topics you would like to know more about.

Rebecca Bigley shared this question:

Q: From a financial standpoint what are 5 key things the district is doing to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers and employees?

A: Great question! I will try to condense what I feel best shows accountability to Lexington's taxpayers and employees.

1) **Allocate resources according to what's best for students** – This must continue to be our #1 priority.

2) **Pursue a long-term approach to fiscal stability and responsibility** – The district will operate strategically and plan ahead. We will make balanced financial decisions according to what is fair, feasible and sustainable in the long run. We will be good stewards of the district's resources and operate proactively instead of reactively.

3) **Use data to drive financial decisions** – Collect data, analyze, measure, and evaluate. The district will look for the most cost effective ways to operate excellent programs. We will set goals and use benchmarks to gauge our financial position and make changes as needed.

4) **Communicate and listen** – This is an area in which the district is committed to improve. It is crucial that we provide to our stakeholders financial information that is timely, credible, and understandable. In turn, we will listen to stakeholders. It is through a healthy exchange of ideas that we come up with the best path for the district.

5) **Continue to operate with honesty, integrity and transparency.** In doing so, we will earn the trust of our taxpayers and employees.

John Watkins suggested that the Superintendent and Treasurer host an evening program for parents and community members to answer questions, gather new ideas, address financial concerns, and possibly recognize exceptional efforts of those in our school system. John also recommended serving coffee and cookies.

Great idea John! I forwarded your suggestion to Mr. Z!

Thanks Rebecca and John! Your prizes are on the way...