



The Journal

So much to be proud of in Warren Consolidated

by Leah A. Berdy
Secretary, Board of Education



Welcome back to the 2024-25 school year! I cannot believe we are heading into November and the holidays are just around the corner.

At the start of the school year, it was nice to see so many families at our annual open house events. When I am out in the school community at events, I am reminded of how truly special Warren Consolidated Schools is. Our district has the most involved and dedicated families around.

It is a true privilege to serve the students, staff, and families of the WCS community as a member of the Board of Education. Our district is committed to creating dynamic futures for all WCS students through student achievement, high expectations, and strong relationships.

WCS has so much to be proud of. We continue to be committed to a safe and secure environment for students, staff, and visitors; a focus on social-emotional learning; high quality instruction in all classrooms; and state-of-the-art technology at all levels.

Some of our other district points of pride include:

- The Class of 2024 was awarded more than \$14 million in academic and athletic scholarships.

See Berdy page 3

WCS Operating Millage Replacement

On November 5, 2024, Warren Consolidated Schools' residents will be asked to vote on the district's millage rate to maintain opportunities for our students as we prepare them for college, trade school, the workforce, and beyond.

The operating millage replacement contributes directly to the district's operating budget and assists in maintaining high-quality education programs for students.

Without it, WCS would receive 19 percent less funding for the next 10 years. Programs, class sizes, learning materials, staffing, and extracurricular offerings would be significantly impacted.

The millage impacts only the general fund operating budget and is not related to the capital improvement bond passed in 2022.

This operating millage replacement represents no tax increase for community homeowners on their principal residence.

The millage replacement is different from the capital improvement

bond due to the fact that the capital improvement bond addresses safety and security, technology, and facility improvements across all schools.

While bond funds cannot be used toward annual operating expenses, funds from the operating millage can. Such annual operating expenses include teachers, principals, support staff, coaches, utilities, classroom learning materials, plus much more.

"We are fortunate to live in a community where parents, grandparents, and community members celebrate the many excellent educational opportunities provided to our children," Superintendent of Schools Dr. John C. Bernia, Jr. said. "These opportunities are provided to our students by our extraordinarily committed employees who continue to keep WCS a vibrant and important part of our neighborhoods."

To learn more about the operating millage replacement, visit: WCSKIDS.NET.

Millage FAQ's

Q: What is requested on the school ballot on November 5, 2024?

A: This proposal would restore and maintain the authority of the Warren Consolidated Schools to levy mills for general school district operating purposes.

Q: Will this increase the property tax rate on my home?

A: No. For WCS homeowners, this millage restoration will extend the current authority for homeowners and will not increase tax rates over the current authorization.

Q: What are the revenues used for?

A: The revenues raised by this millage are used for general operating expenses of the school district. These include salaries, classroom materials, transportation, building maintenance, and other services that support the district's daily operations.

Q: How will this ballot proposal impact WCS homeowners?

A: Under existing law, WCS would levy on principal residence property only that portion of the mills (currently 3.2798 mills) necessary to allow the school district to receive the full revenue per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State.

Q: What are the details of the Operating Millage Replacement proposal for the WCS homeowners (commercial, industrial, and rental properties)?

A: The proposal includes restoring the millage rate to protect against reductions caused by the Headlee Amendment rollbacks. For homeowners, the millage rate is capped at up to 8.5241 mills, of which the district is only levying 3.2798 mills. The operating millage proposal reduces this cap to 6 mills for homeowners. This rate allows the district to maintain necessary funding levels without imposing any new tax increase on primary residences.

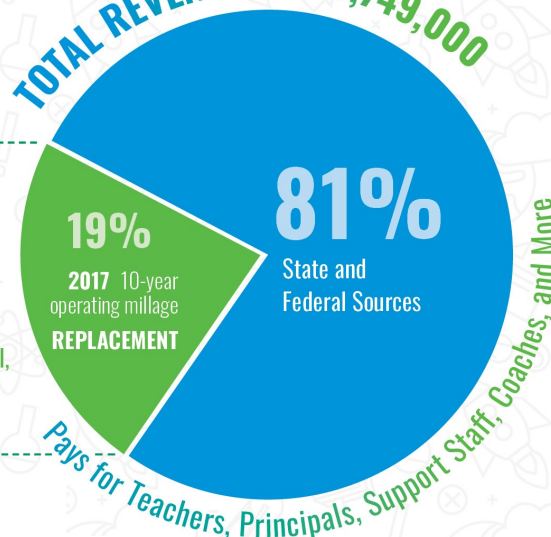
THE IMPACT TO OUR BUDGET:

OPERATING MILLAGE BREAKDOWN

Approximately 21% from principal homeowner residences and

79% from business, rental, and other non-exempt property

TOTAL REVENUE: \$229,749,000



District's Operating Millage up for renewal

by John C. Bernia, Jr., Ed.D.—Superintendent of Schools



Our district's operating millage is up for renewal on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. I am proud to

share that we are proposing a 10-year replacement. It's important that every community member understands the significance of our operating millage.

Every few years we turn to our community to vote on the school operating millage, 79 percent of which is funded by businesses in our area with the other 21 percent from homeowners. This millage comprises almost 20 percent of our operating budget and is primarily used for in-classroom learning such as teachers, support staff, and school principals; books and materials; and programs such as athletics, the fine and performing arts, and many other outstanding extracurricular activities.

We are proud of our school board's diligence in maintaining a balanced budget and cutting unneeded expenses. We are ask-

ing for the community to vote on holding this millage rate steady for the next 10 years to maintain opportunities for our students as we prepare them for college, trade school, the workforce, and beyond. This operating millage replacement represents no tax increase for community homeowners on their principal residence.

WCS has many great traditions and appreciates our partnership with the community. If you have questions or need more information, please feel free to call me at 586-698-4044 or visit www.wcskids.net.

We are fortunate to live in a community where parents, grandparents, and community members celebrate the many excellent educational opportunities provided to our children. These opportunities are provided to our students by our extraordinarily committed employees who continue to keep WCS a vibrant and important part of our neighborhoods.

Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 5!

Rudd appointed to Board of Education

The Warren Consolidated Schools Board of Education appointed Carmela Rudd as a Trustee at their August 15 special meeting.

Rudd was officially sworn in by 37th District Court Judge Steven M. Bieda at the August 21 board meeting. Her term will expire November 2026.

Rudd, a Warren resident, has lived in the district for 39 years. She is married and has two children. Her oldest is a graduate of WCS and her youngest is a senior at Cousino High School. Rudd is currently a Behavioral Specialist in Fitzgerald Public Schools.

"I look forward to being able to have not only a parent perspective, but also a teacher perspective when it



Carmella Rudd and Judge Steven M. Bieda

comes to helping our students succeed in the classroom," Rudd said.

In her free time, Rudd enjoys spending time with her family, enjoying her family's extra-curricular activities, as well as reading.

Millage FAQ's—continued from pg. 1

Q: How does this millage allow WCS to maintain the 18 mills on non-homestead property (commercial, industrial, and rental properties)?

A: By restoring the millage, the district will be able to levy the full 18 mills on non-homestead properties, which include commercial, industrial, and rental residential properties. The district is currently only able to levy 17.5045 mills due to the roll-back under the Headlee Amendment. The district must levy 18 mills in order to receive its full per pupil foundation allowance.

Q: What is the maximum levy amount in this operating millage for business owners?

A: For business owners and other non-homestead property owners, the maximum levy amount is 18 mills. This includes commercial, industrial, and rental residential properties. Commercial personal property is exempt from 12 of the current 18 mills.



Q: Who is eligible to vote in the election on Tuesday, November 5, 2024?

A: Any registered voter residing within the boundaries of Warren Consolidated Schools is eligible to vote in this election.

Q: When is Election Day and where do I vote?

A: Election Day is Tuesday, November 5th. Polls are open from 7 am to 8 pm. You can find your voting location through the Secretary of State website: www.michigan.gov/sos

Q: Where can I find more information if I have questions?

A: Visit the district's website at WCSKIDS.NET for more information.

School Spirit

In a highly anticipated football rivalry game, Warren Mott High School welcomed Cousino High School to their home field. The game was in conjunction with School Spirit Day, where Superintendent Dr. John C. Bernia, Jr. called upon current, future, and former Stallions, Patriots, Marauders (and Orioles) to show their school pride.

The game was made even more special with the presence of honorary captains from the Board of Education for both schools. Cousino's honorary captain was Board Vice President Carl Weckerle, while Mott was represented by Board Secretary Leah Berdy and Board Trustee Brian White.



Around the district...

CPC Manufacturing Day

Career Prep Center students took part in Manufacturing Day (MFG Day), a yearly event that helps show the reality of modern manufacturing careers by encouraging companies and educational institutions around the nation to open their doors to students, parents, teachers, and community leaders.

Collision Tech students visited INTEC Automated Controls, Metal Tech students visited Duggan Manufacturing, Culinary Arts students visited Ethel's Baking Company, CAD/Pre-Engineering students visited BMT Aerospace USA, Inc., and Graphic Design students visited Sticker Blitz.



Heart of a Hall of Famer

Detroit Lions great and Pro Football Hall of Famer, Calvin Johnson visited Cousino High School to speak with the freshman, JV, and varsity football teams as part of the Heart of a Hall of Famer series. Students had the opportunity to learn firsthand what it took, beyond athletic ability, for Johnson to achieve success on and off the field. The event was sponsored by the Pro Football Hall of Fame and Extreme Networks, in conjunction with the district's Technology Department.



Constitution Day

September 17 is designated as Constitution Day to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution in Philadelphia. In observance of Constitution Day, students at Black Elementary produced a constitution flip book, created a classroom constitution, and watched School House Rock.



Fall Family Fun

The Angus Educational Center hosted an inaugural Fall Family Event for students and families in support of the school/home connection. Students and their guests engaged in experiences which included a petting farm, horse rides, fall sensory play, and pumpkin painting.



National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Congratulations to **Riley Mabuhay** from MMSTC/Cousino, **Fadi Mandwee** from MMSTC/SHHS, and **Chloe Taylor** from MMSTC/SHHS for being named National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

NMSC recently announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Riley, Fadi, and Chloe have the opportunity to continue in the competition for National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.

Berdy—continued from page 1

- WCS received the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education distinction from the NAMM Foundation.
- Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center graduates received 100 percent college acceptance.
- Middle School Mathematics Science Technology Center ranked #1 Middle School in the state by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- Warren Consolidated School of Performing Arts (WCSPA) Thespian Troop 1000 was awarded more than \$2.7 million in scholarships at the Michigan Thespian Festival.
- Pearl Lean Elementary was named a Building the Hope School by the Education Trust-Midwest.

Our students continue to do extraordinary things that we look forward to

sharing with you throughout the school year.

This November 5, our district is asking for the community to vote on our operating millage rate to maintain opportunities for our students as we prepare them for college, trade school, the workforce, and beyond.

The operating millage replacement contributes directly to our operating budget and assists in maintaining high-quality education programs for students. Without it, our district would receive 19 percent less funding for the next 10 years. Programs, class sizes, learning materials, staffing, and extracurricular offerings would be significantly impacted.

Please take some time to read through this issue of *The Journal* to learn more about the upcoming millage replacement. More information is available on the district's website: WCSKIDS.NET.

2024-25 Calendar

November 5—NO SCHOOL

November 8—K-12 half day; AM ECSE; No PM ECSE

November 26—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM

November 27-29—NO SCHOOL; Thanksgiving Break

December 10—K-12 Early Release

December 23-January 3—NO SCHOOL; Winter Break

January 15—9-12 half day; High School exams

January 16—9-12 half day; High School exams

January 17—K-12 half-day; ECSE AM only; NO PM ECSE; High School exams

January 20—NO SCHOOL; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 28—K-12 Early Release

February 12—Supplemental Student Count Day

February 14—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE

February 17-21—NO SCHOOL; Mid-Winter Break

March 4—K-12 Early Release

March 13—K-12 half day; No PM ECSE; K-12 afternoon and evening Parent Teacher Conferences

March 18—K-12 Early Release

March 21—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE

March 24-31—NO SCHOOL; Spring Break

April 9—HS/MS Testing Day (date subject to change/schedules to follow)

April 15—K-12 Early Release

April 18—NO SCHOOL district wide

May 6—NO SCHOOL district wide

May 13—K-12 Early Release

May 23—K-12 half day; AM ECSE only; Senior Last Day

May 26—NO SCHOOL; Memorial Day

June 7—High School Graduation Ceremonies

June 10—9-11 half day; High School exams

June 11—9-11 half day; High School exams

June 12—K-12 half day; No AM ECSE; PM reports in AM; High School exams

Warren Consolidated Schools
31300 Anita Drive
Warren, MI 48093
1.888.4WCS.KIDS
WCSKIDS.NET

Board of Education

Susan G. Trombley
President

Carl Weckerle
Vice President

Leah A. Berdy
Secretary

I. Susan Kattula
Treasurer

Kyle M. Johnson
Trustee

Carmela Rudd
Trustee

Brian White
Trustee

John C. Bernia, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

The Journal is produced by the
Office of Public Relations
Renee Burch
Public Relations Specialist
586.698.4044
rburch@wcskids.net

Notice of Nondiscrimination—In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Operations Officer, 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.

Stay connected...



Annual Notices

Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires Warren Consolidated Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Warren Consolidated Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Warren Consolidated Schools to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local education agencies (LEA's) receiving assistance under the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) 2015* to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information—names, addresses and

telephone listings—unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without prior written consent.

If you do not want Warren Consolidated Schools to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing. Warren Consolidated Schools has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Address
- Telephone listings
- Electronic mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors and awards received
- The most recent educational agency/institution attended
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or part, cannot be used for this purpose).

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each year district workers and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos related activities that have been conducted in Warren Consolidated Schools this past year.

Management Plans—In 1998, Warren Consolidated Schools contracted with Asbestos Management Inc. to conduct inspections for asbestos containing material within all district owned buildings. This information was then compiled into Asbestos Management Plans. These Management Plans are kept in each building and are available for review. A copy of each building management plan is also located in the Educational Service Center.

Surveillance Activities—The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) regulation requires surveillance of the condition of AMC every six months and re-inspections every three years. The periodic

surveillance was conducted in January 2021. Since the last re-inspection was done in December 2020, the next three years re-inspection will be conducted in December 2023. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the buildings' Management Plans.

Asbestos Abatement—It is anticipated that Warren Consolidated Schools will need to conduct asbestos abatement within its facilities over the next year removing materials such as, but not limited to, floor tile, floor tile mastic, fire doors and fire door frames. All remaining AMC will continue to be maintained under the Operations and Maintenance Program.

Any removal projects will be performed by a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor and managed by Nova Environmental, Inc., the District's environmental consulting firm.

Asbestos documentation is available for review in each building file and at the Educational Service Center. For information, please contact Laura Mabee, Manager of Auxiliary Services at 586-698-4446.

Integrated Pest Management

The State of Michigan law requires that schools that may apply pesticides on school property must provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians of students attending a facility.

Please be advised that Warren Consolidated Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation that is made to the school grounds or buildings during the school year. Please note that notification is not given for the infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least two methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school at least 48 hours in advance. The second method will be posting at the school's main office at least 48 hours in advance.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first class mail, contact Kenneth Matheny at Elite Pest Management who is contracted and responsible for all inspections and pesticide procedures. Elite Pest Management can be reached at 586-294-7055. The designated district employee responsible for pesticide application procedures is Laura Mabee, Manager of Auxiliary Services (586-698-4446 lmabee@wcskids.net). Forms are also available in the main offices of each school.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application, upon request.