

ANTHONY WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS

GENERALS JOURNAL

A MID-YEAR UPDATE TO OUR COMMUNITY

JANUARY 2023

A Strategic Vision:

Reflecting on the past and planning for the future.

Empowering Students to be Future Ready

Planning for Tomorrow

Financial Forecast

Connecting with our Community

[Click to view the Mid-Year Update Video Report >>](#)



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Anthony Wayne Local Schools Mid-Year Update

Reflection, Gratitude and Hopefulness

Welcome to 2023! The start of a new year offers the opportunity to reflect upon the past year and consider all of the possibilities that the future holds.

We started this school year with a fresh mindset - hopeful for a year full of growth and positivity as we were ready to put the adversity of the past two years behind us.

As we conclude the first semester of the school year, I'm pleased to see the many ways our staff, students, parents and community have built upon this enthusiasm to create outstanding learning experiences that are preparing our students to be future ready.

This newsletter is intended to serve as a District update and provide an overview to where we have been over the past year, and what goals we have ahead of us.

To each of our stakeholders - thank you...for your hard work, commitment and energy in providing the very best for our students.

Each student, staff member, family and community member holds an important role in our school community, and I'm excited to see the many, many ways we continue to work together as a team to ensure our students have the best possible foundation for their futures.



I look forward to working with each of you to meet the District's goals for the last half of the 2022-23 school year and beyond.

Go Generals!

Dr. Jim Fritz
Superintendent
Anthony Wayne Local Schools



Administration

Mr. Kevin Herman, *Assistant Superintendent*
Dr. Jim Fritz, *Superintendent*
Ms. Kerri Johnson, *Treasurer*
Mr. Ray Greene, *Assistant Treasurer*



Board of Education

Mr. Jeff Baden, *Vice President*
Mrs. Pam Brint, *President*
Mr. Kyle Miller, *Board Member*
Mrs. Jayna Gwinn, *Board Member*
Mr. Troy Lutz, *Board Member*

The Path to Continuous Improvement

Meeting the Needs of Our Students Today and into Their Future



We all want our students to be prepared and successful upon graduation no matter what they choose to do.

We also know that the world that our kindergarten class will step into upon graduation will be very different than that of the Class of 2023, so the District must continuously adapt to meet the needs of our students to make sure they are ready to take on new challenges and opportunities.

This continuous improvement process is a large part of being a successful school district, and we must always ask how we can

prepare students to be successful in their future endeavours.

The District has collaborated with students, parents, staff and community members to create the *Portrait of a General* competencies and the District Strategic Plan to set goals for providing educational opportunities for our students.

These two initiatives will help guide our work over the next few years to make sure we are empowering students to be future ready.

We look forward to partnering with our stakeholders as we continue to adapt to the changing needs of our students.

Portrait of a General

AWLS staff members, administration and board members began working with Battelle for Kids in 2018 to actively engage the community in developing the *Portrait of a General*, a collective picture of the skills students need to be successful in achieving their future goals.

Through conversations with educators, employers, community members, families and students, the District identified the key characteristics that students must have - in addition to academic and personal skills - to be ready for enrollment, enlistment or employment upon high school graduation:

- Learner's Mindset
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration & Communication
- Adaptability & Flexibility
- Empathy



2022 - 2023

We continue to work with our stakeholders to seek, develop and grow opportunities for our students to develop the foundational skills they need. Through meaningful learning experiences for students in kindergarten through high school, we are committed to partnering with our community to prepare our students to meet their goals.

[Click here to learn more about the Anthony Wayne Local Schools *Portrait of a General* >>](#)



"Teachers are getting students ready for the future by using all of the *Portrait of a General* skills and assets naturally in the classroom. I think our staff has done a nice job of embedding them, so it becomes who you're truly going to be as a graduate of Anthony Wayne."

Lori Williams
Assistant Principal
 Anthony Wayne Junior High



Strategic Planning Process

School districts and other organizations use the strategic planning process to reflect upon their progress, gather feedback, review their core values, mission and vision and plan for the future. Anthony Wayne Local Schools partnered with Finding Leaders in 2021-22 to support the District's strategic planning.

Thanks to this input from our school community, the District developed a new mission statement, vision statement and goals to guide its work for the next several years. This Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Education in August 2022.

Our Mission

Anthony Wayne Local Schools empowers students to be future ready!

Our Vision

Driven by our core beliefs and rich traditions, Anthony Wayne Local Schools will be among the best school districts in the state and our future ready Generals will be prepared to march forward with a foundation that will allow each individual ultimate success.



Our Goals

The Strategic Plan includes five goals that focus on providing the resources and services needed to support staff development and outstanding educational opportunities for all students, while continuing to meet the expectations of our community. These goals center on:

- Student Learning
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Community Engagement
- Resources for Student Success
- Students and Staff Ready to Learn

[More about the Strategic Planning Process and District Goals can be found on the District website >>](#)

2022 - 2023

With the Strategic Plan approved, staff have begun developing strategies for attaining the District's goals with a focus on academic rigor. Some of these actions are already underway, and will be reviewed and revised as necessary to ensure the District is responsive to the needs of our staff, students and community while making strides toward empowering students to be future ready.

[Click to view an update of the Strategic Planning Process from the January 2023 Board of Education Meeting >>](#)



Facilities Assessment and Master Plan 2016

Thanks to the support of our community and the passage of a bond issue in 2016, the District was able to make several improvements to District facilities. These included the construction of a new Whitehouse Primary building, additions and renovations to the high school and Waterville Primary, renovations to AW Junior High, Fallen Timbers Middle School and Monclova Primary.

The AWLS Operations staff does a fantastic job in ensuring our buildings are safe and in good repair however, the District must continue to address the effects of time on our facilities. We must also consider future modifications that will ensure our students have classrooms and resources conducive to learning as technologies and educational strategies continue to evolve.



2022 - 2023

In the fall of 2022, the District hired local architectural and facility master planning agency, The Collaborative, to conduct research, evaluate the District's needs, gather stakeholder input and develop a new facility master plan.

Throughout the fall and into the winter, the firm worked with District personnel and outside contractors to review the current state of our facilities. We expect these findings to be shared at the February 2023 board meeting.

Next Steps

An outside consultant will complete an study to identify future capacity needs for District buildings and facilities.

The District will request feedback from stakeholders in the form of surveys and community meetings to help determine the next steps for ensuring our facilities meet the future needs our students, services and programs.

The Facilities Master Plan should be completed by the Spring of 2023.

[Information and updates about the Facilities Assessment and Master Plan are shared on the website as they are available >>](#)



"My classroom is great because I have so much space in it. I can have three different lab set ups. It saves a lot of time... One of the huge perks of our campus being located where it's located is that we have access to Blue Creek and Swan Creek. We can go right outside to study our local environment."

Julie Blakely

Environmental Science and Zoology Teacher
Anthony Wayne High School



"I'll tell you what...this place is awesome. It's like an actual college cross country course, the really good ones...this is an awesome venue."

Dave Masters

Training Program Director
Dave's Running

Financial Outlook

Staying Fiscally Responsible in Changing Circumstances

The COVID-19 pandemic and changing economic circumstances continue to affect the operating budgets of school districts across the country.

Anthony Wayne Local Schools is grateful for the continued support of our community and committed

to being good stewards of the financial resources provided by taxpayers.

We will continue to closely monitor our financial situation and seek creative ways to make the most of the local, state and federal funding available to the District.

FY 2020 - FY 2022

The District revenue over the last three years has ranged from \$43.4 million to \$45.3 million. This revenue is from three main sources that include federal, state and local funding, with the majority provided from local sources because in the federal and state funding plans consider the District to have a high property valuation.

Over this same time period, District expenditures have ranged from \$43.6 million to \$45.3 million.

November 2022

The AWLS Board of Education approved the five year forecast for the District. This document provides a summary of the financial status of the District and is updated in May of each year.

This fiscal year, the revenue is predicted to be approximately \$45.9 million, with expenditures predicted to be approximately \$46.2 million.

The increase in expenditures over previous years is due to the addition of several services this year such as:

- new academic intervention for students
- additional security and mental health services
- more teachers in grade levels due to an increase in enrollment in specific buildings

The District will continue to monitor the revenue and expenditures and make necessary adjustments while providing the needed resources to help students be successful.

[The District Five-Year Forecast is available online >>](#)

A Great Value

Based on the 2022 tax year, Anthony Wayne Local Schools continues to have the lowest school taxes per \$100,000 of home value in Lucas County. The last time the District asked voters to approve a new operational levy was in November 2013; nearly 10 years ago.



School Taxes Per \$100K of Home Value in Lucas County	
Ottawa Hills	\$2432
Maumee	\$1607
Washington Local	\$1540
Sylvania	\$1351
Toledo	\$1285
Springfield	\$1269
Oregon	\$1213
Anthony Wayne	\$1048

ARP ESSER COVID-19 Relief Funds

Starting in 2020, the federal government provided financial support to school districts to alleviate the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic. AWLS has used this funding to provide academic and other support services to students.

The ARP ESSER funds will continue to help our students recover from the effects of the pandemic through the 2023-24 school year. The District and community will need to evaluate if these services should continue into the future once the relief funds are exhausted.

[More details about how the ARP ESSER funds were used are available on the Treasurer's page of the District website >>](#)



Where to Find District News & Information

Our schools are full of activity! We invite you to stay up-to-date on District events, news and other important information by engaging with us in the following ways:

Board of Education Meetings

The Anthony Wayne Local Schools Board of Education meets monthly to make decisions that help to ensure our schools are providing the best possible educational opportunities for students. Stakeholders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

[See the Board of Education meeting calendar >>](#)

District Calendar of Events

From sporting events and music performances to fundraisers and parent group meetings, the District calendar offers a quick glimpse at the activities happening in our schools.

[View the District events calendar >>](#)

www.AnthonyWayneSchools.org

Our website serves as a one-stop for news and information from across the District. Bookmark the News page to see how we are working to empower students to be future ready.

[View the latest stories from across the District >>](#)

Follow Us on Twitter

The District social media accounts offer a quick glimpse into the day-to-day activity in our schools. Follow Anthony Wayne Local Schools on Twitter at [@awgenerals](https://twitter.com/awgenerals) or check out the list of other accounts from across the District by using the link below.

[Access the District's list of Twitter accounts >>](#)

Subscribe to Our YouTube Channel

Our YouTube channels offers a behind-the-scenes look at what's happening in our schools and offers the opportunity to hear from staff and students. Subscribe so you are the first to know when a new video is posted.

[See what's happening in our schools >>](#)

Get Involved

The best way to stay up-to-date with what's happening in the District is to take an active role in our school community. Whether you work as a substitute employee, serve with a parent organization, volunteer as a classroom helper, offer your expertise as a professional speaker or attend a community meeting, there are many opportunities to participate in supporting our staff and students.

[Visit the Community tab on our website for details >>](#)



"Anthony Wayne offers a students a lot of opportunities with AP classes, College Credit Plus, Career Talks and class meetings to help us try to figure out what we want to do with our futures."

Austin Wilson
Class of 2024



"The teachers here have helped me to become the person I am now... to help me become more outgoing and to be myself. They've given me multiple opportunities to pursue my art."

Hannah Rizzo
Class of 2023