



June 2022

**RE: State of the District**

Families & Community:

What a year it's been! On May 26, 2022, we **graduated over 280 seniors** at Miller Auditorium. It was a wonderful evening; graduation is the culminating experience for students, parents, staff, and the Board of Education. Thank you, parents and families, for allowing us the humbling opportunity to partner with you.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING.** This year marked the completion of the District's first **Dynamic Strategic Plan** since around 2007. The Board of Education embarked on this critical process two months ago. Through the solicitation of feedback from students, staff, administration, parents, and community members, data was gathered and used to craft a roadmap for the future of Mattawan Consolidated School. We want to remind everybody that this is a framework. We will develop specific action items to achieve these goals and targets in the coming months. This plan is aggressive and will require a massive amount of work. It will also require teamwork—our community, families, and district working harmoniously together to achieve success! When we think about our core values—partnerships, respect, inclusion, development, and excellence—I can't help but feel an immense amount of pride in the work we've done, the work we are doing, and the work yet to be done. You can view the plan overview [here](#).

**STAFFING.** This year, we **added several key staff to assist our students**: one additional social worker at the middle school and two mental health clinicians to support wellness in our students and families schoolwide. **A third Dean of Teaching and Learning position will be added to the high school** this fall. The high school currently has two Dean of Teaching and Learning positions. This added position will allow the building to better and more efficiently support our students, families, and staff.

We have also **added an additional full-time Student Resource Officer** (through the Van Buren Sheriff's Department) **who will be housed at the EES & LES buildings full time**. This Deputy joins our current full-time Deputy at the middle and high school. As part of our ongoing safety and security review, we recently contracted with a third-party safety specialist to review all our facilities, protocols, and equipment and recommend improvements.

With the retirement of Mr. Owen and Mr. Berlin (EES and LES principals), we have hired **Ms. Melissa Martin as the new principal of the EES**. She comes to Wildcat Country from Lakeview. The interview process for Mr. Berlin's replacement is underway!

**WILDCAT PRESCHOOL.** This fall will mark the opening of our new preschool program, which will be housed in the Early Childhood Education Center. This half-day program will be available to families and join the 3 & 4-year-old program, Tri-County Head Start, and the Great Start Readiness Programs. Learn more about our preschool/registration [here](#).

**CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS.** There are several exciting and necessary projects we are working on this summer. Most notable of these are the following: the high school office, middle school office, middle school media center, and roughly 29 middle school classrooms **will receive much-needed new carpet**. In addition, our Mattawan Public Education Foundation (MPEF) will be adding **fresh paint, bookcases, and other pieces of furniture to our middle school Media Center** in the coming months! Our football stadium **will be receiving new LED lighting**, super bright and cost-efficient. These new fixtures should be operational for our first home football game this fall, giving new meaning to "Friday Night Lights."

**TEACHING & LEARNING.** The Board of Education recently approved the purchase of **new math texts and supplemental materials for grades 6 – 12.** This purchase results from a year-long review/pilot process and will provide a seamless transition from the elementary math experience through the AP math courses at our high school. These materials should arrive this summer, ready for students this fall.

**TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS.** This past year our Transportation Department has been working to deploy a new route building application, complete with **a mobile app for parents to securely track their child's bus location and arrival in real-time.** We believe this will be a great convenience for our parents. Stay tuned!

**NON-HOMESTEAD RENEWAL.** Finally, on **August 2, 2022, Mattawan voters will be asked to renew a non-homestead operating millage. This is a renewal and includes no new taxes:**

- Renewal of Mattawan Consolidated School's current non-homestead operating millage
- Renewal of 19.4227 mills; district never levies more than 18 mills
- Renews for another four-year term
- Non-homestead operating millage is levied only on businesses, commercial property, vacation & rental homes; it does not affect primary residences (\$0 taxes)
- Required to be levied for school districts to receive full state funding
- The funds generated by the millage represent \$3.45M of the district's general fund operating budget and cannot be replaced with other funding

Learn more about the renewal [here](#).

**SCHOOL CULTURE.** The district has taken a laser-focused approach to enhance our professional development around school culture, relationship building, and equipping staff to better support students. Our teachers and administrators will embark on a game-changing opportunity this fall by attending **Capturing Kid's Hearts** training. We aim to have the entire district trained within the next two years. Learn more about CKH [here](#).

We wish you a wonderful and safe summer! See you back on Monday, August 29 for the first day of the 2022-2023 school year!

With Mattawan Pride,



Randy Fleenor  
Superintendent

#### **Important Fall Dates**

- August 29 – Students' First Day, ½ Day
- September 2 & 5 – No School, Labor Day
- October 31 – No School, Records Day
- November 22 – ½ Day
- November 23-25 – No School, Thanksgiving Break
- December 26 – January 6 – No School, Christmas Break



**MILLAGE RENEWAL NO NEW TAXES**

## MILLAGE RENEWAL

Mattawan voters will be asked to renew the District's non-homestead operating millage. The amount generated partially funds day-to-day operations.

### THERE IS NO COST ON PRIMARY RESIDENCES.

The 18-mill request would be levied only on non-homestead properties. This Operating Millage is required for the District to continue to receive its full per-pupil foundation allowance from the State of Michigan.

**THIS A ZERO-TAX-RATE-INCREASE.**

## Contact Us

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-  [www.mattawanschools.org](http://www.mattawanschools.org)



**VOTE AUGUST 2, 2022**

EVERY WILDCAT. EVERY DAY.

**OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**

**THIS A ZERO-TAX-RATE-INCREASE.**

## MILLAGE BASICS

- Renewal of Mattawan Consolidated School's current non-homestead operating millage
- Renewal of 19.4227 mills; district never levies more than 18 mills
- Renews for another four-year term



- Non-homestead operating millage is levied only on businesses, commercial property, vacation & rental homes; does not affect primary residences (\$0 taxes)
- Required to be levied in order for school districts to receive full state funding
- The funds generated by the millage represent \$3.45M of the district's general fund operating budget and cannot be replaced with other funding



### LEARN MORE

[www.mattawanschools.org/millage](http://www.mattawanschools.org/millage)

## KEY DETAILS

**1**

### NON HOMESTEAD PROPERTIES

Does Not Affect Primary Residence



**2**

### ZERO

There is a zero tax increase



**3**

### \$3.45M

Millage funds represent approximately \$3.45M (10%) of the district's general fund operating budget and cannot be replaced with other funding



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**OPERATING MILLAGE RENEWAL**