



Urbana City Schools

Dedicated to Excellence

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www.urbana.k12.oh.us

Charles Thiel
Superintendent

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Treasurer

Building Excellence During the 2016-17 School Year **August 24, 2016**

On behalf of board, staff, and students, I'd like to thank the community for voting in November of 2014 to approve a bond issue to raise our local share of funding for the District Facilities Master Plan that includes the following components:

- Preserve the Castle building for use by the district as part of a locally funded plan.
- The current UHS auditorium/gym will be maintained as part of a locally funded plan as a separate facility. (Fixed seat auditoriums are not funded under an OSFC plan.)
- Replace all current school buildings with new facilities.
- Build a new pre-Kindergarten through eighth grade (PK-8) combined elementary & middle school building on a site to be determined.
- Build a new high school for grades nine through twelve on the current high school site incorporating the Castle and auditorium/gym building.
- The State will pay **61%** of the cost of demolition and asbestos abatement for current facilities that no longer will be used. These buildings can also be sold with the proceeds used to defray costs of new construction.

It is expected that the new high school will open in the spring of 2018 and the PK-8 school will open for the fall of the 2019-20 school year. During the next three years we will continue to focus on our District-wide theme of *Building Excellence* as we make our schools the learning places that our students deserve.

The planning process for our new schools started in March of 2015 with the work of our School Community Visioning Team. This group of staff, administration, community members, and students spent three days looking at the future of both instructional design and facility design.

This group identified the following guiding principles:

1. Flexibility - in facilities, thinking, scheduling, and curriculum;

Board of Education: – Jack Beard – Alyssa Dunham – Jan Engle – Tim Lacy – Warren Stevens

2. Communication, leadership, and professional development to continue the shift towards research-based, innovative, and student-centered learning practices that are active and applied;
3. Preparing our students for the 21st Century rapid changes, global competition, and virtually unlimited access to information;
4. Continuing to build and strengthen relationships with students, families, and the community; and
5. Creating life-long learners of both the students and the adults in the school.

Project-based, small-group work with student collaboration was also identified as one of the most effective instructional models for the way students learn. Interdisciplinary learning and internships were also practices that were noted as necessary to provide quality educational experiences for our students.

We are currently in the final design stages for our new facilities. A rendering of the new Urbana High School is below. For more information about our facilities construction program, please select the link near the bottom center of our District web page at www.urbana.k12.oh.us.

Thank you for your interest in our district. I invite you to take some time to learn more about our district by using the links provided on our web site. Please make use of the available district calendar and plan to join us for one or more of our many public activities.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the Urbana City School District. Go Hillclimbers!

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