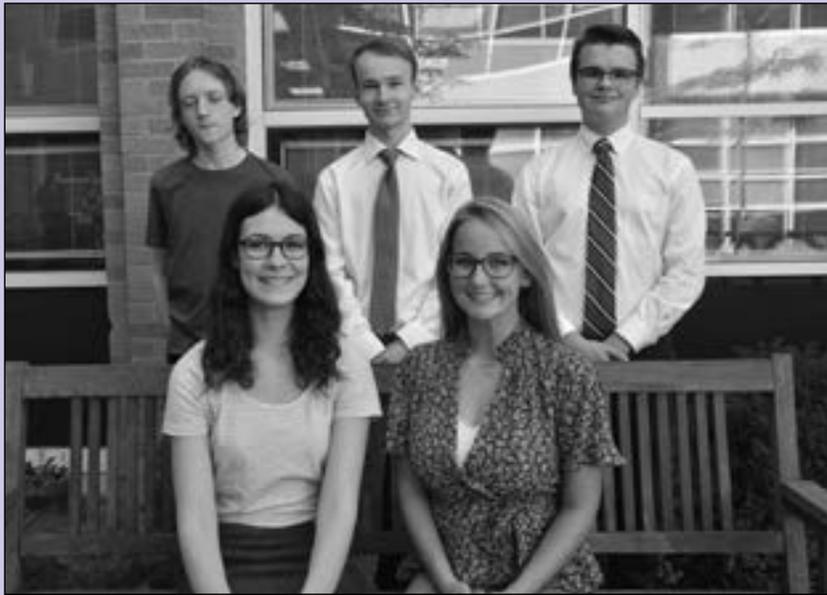




Lakewood City Schools REPORT CARD

A Lakewood community newsletter

December 2019



Lakewood High's National Merit Scholars (front row, from left): Commended Scholars Emma Carson and Emma Hirsch; (back row from left): Commended Scholar Alexander Weber, Semifinalists Aidan Bohac and Evan Bell.

Salute to our National Merit Scholars

Earlier this fall the District celebrated the announcement of Lakewood High seniors being recognized as top scholars in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The recognitions included two National Merit Semifinalists, Evan Bell and Aidan Bohac, and three Commended Scholars, Emma Carson, Emma Hirsch and Alexander Weber. These five are among the top academic students in the nation.

Semifinalists represent less than 1% of U. S. high school seniors and are the highest scoring entrants in their state. More than 1.6 million students in over 22,000 schools entered the competition. Students enter the competition by taking the PSAT their junior year. Commended Scholars are among the top 5% of PSAT participants. All five honorees were recognized by our Board of Education and state legislators in November.

Board approves levy issue for March ballot

At a special meeting on December 10, the Board of Education acted upon and unanimously approved the recommendation by Superintendent Mike Barnes and Treasurer Kent Zeman to place a 3.9 mill operating levy combined with a 1.0 mill permanent improvement levy on

the March 17, 2020 ballot. This levy will cost taxpayers less than \$2 a month more than they currently pay, based on a property valuation of \$100,000. Due to sound financial practices and restructuring and refinancing of existing debt, the new issue will not change the current tax rate,

but will be a small tax increase because of a law change.

Due to inconsistent and declining State funds, and the increasing costs of operating our schools – like healthcare and utilities – the District will start deficit spending in 2020,

See **LEVY** Page 4

District bolstering its STEM offerings

Lakewood City Schools is responding to the community's desire for more STEM instruction in our District by boosting the opportunities for students in this area across all grade levels. Through community listening sessions and surveys conducted last year, this was one of our stakeholders' top curriculum priorities.

While the successful Ranger Hub makerspace and Project Lead the Way engineering program of West Shore Career-Tech were serving our high school students, it was evident that more needed to be done at the elementary and middle school levels. In response, the District has developed a comprehensive STEM curriculum continuum for all grade levels that ranges from discover, to immersion, to application, to career and entrepreneurship.

This school year, our middle schoolers have already seen increased STEM instruction as students are required to take a STEM class one quarter each year. The District also re-aligned staff assignments to strengthen the STEM instruction and increased funding to provide for new technology.

Funding was provided to each of our elementary schools to develop their own makerspaces – a place where students can make, learn, explore and share creative ideas using high tech tools or simple craft supplies. Makerspaces help build many of the competencies of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate from critical and creative thinking to collaboration, communication and growth mindset.

Beginning next year, our

See **STEM** Page 4

Vision of Lakewood Graduate coming alive in classrooms

Since the adoption of our Vision of a Lakewood Graduate, our staff has been doing an amazing job incorporating the Vision's six core competencies – critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, empathy, growth mindset, and global citizen/awareness – into

their classrooms. We asked our teachers to document in a Google Classroom, which is shareable with all of our staff, some examples of their students bringing these competencies to life.

Some examples our staff have shared so far:

See **VISION** Page 4

INSIDE:

Treasurer Kent Zeman provides an overview of the District's finance report for fiscal year 2019.
Pages 2 & 3

Next Listen & Learn session with Superintendent Barnes set for January 22nd
Page 4

Financial Report

To the Citizens of Lakewood:

We are pleased to present the Lakewood City School District's Financial Update for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. This report makes our District's finances easier to understand, and is intended to communicate our financial situation in an open and accountable manner.



The Financial Update summarizes the financial activities and operating results reported in the Lakewood City School District's audited Annual Financial Report. The Financial Update is unaudited and presented on a non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principle) basis, which primarily deals with full disclosure and segregated funds.

The statement and the pie charts presented on pages 2-3 consist of the General Fund of the District. The General Fund is the largest fund from which most day-to-day programs and services are provided. For more detailed financial information, including a discussion of key changes in financial data from last fiscal year, our economic condition and outlook, initiatives and accomplishments, please refer to a copy of the Annual Financial Report. The Annual Financial Report will be posted to the website (www.lakewoodcityschools.org) upon completion of the audit process (generally in December).

The Lakewood City School District is proud of this report and the support offered by the Board of Education in its creation. Ultimately, we would like to thank our citizens for their encouragement in creating a report designed to more adequately address their needs as taxpayers, as well as for the opportunity to serve them. Questions, comments and feedback regarding this report are encouraged, so please do not hesitate to contact the Treasurer's Office at (216)529-4096 or kent.zeman@lakewoodcityschools.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Kent R. Zeman, CPA
Treasurer/CFO

RESOURCES TAKEN IN

		FY 2019
Local Taxes	58.52%	\$43,754,657
State Revenue	31.30%	\$23,406,327
Federal Revenue	0.85%	\$632,631
Investment Income	1.42%	\$1,064,853
Tuition & Fees	3.74%	\$2,796,600
Recreation Fees & Tuition	1.16%	\$868,811
Interfund Receipts	0.00%	\$-
Miscellaneous	3.01%	\$2,247,894
Total Revenue & Resources	100.00%	\$74,771,772

SERVICES PROVIDED

		FY 2019
Instruction	66.76%	\$49,325,980
Pupil Support	5.72%	\$4,227,818
Instructional Support	4.10%	\$3,031,739
Board & Administration	8.54%	\$6,307,435
Business Support	0.91%	\$675,675
Plant Operations	10.20%	\$7,534,733
Transportation	0.16%	\$114,669
Central Office	0.48%	\$354,291
Civic Auditorium	0.20%	\$145,426
Recreation	1.62%	\$1,194,098
Extracurricular	1.32%	\$976,708
Interfund Expenditures	0.00%	\$0
Total Expenditures & Services	100.00%	\$73,888,572

Revenue & Resources Over Expenditures & Services \$ 883,200

Definitions

Revenue & Resources:

Local Taxes is the largest revenue source for the District and is comprised of residential, commercial (retail), industrial (manufacturing), and public utilities taxes paid by the property owners.

State Revenue is comprised of state per pupil aid (approximately \$3,541 per pupil) and property tax relief reimbursement (better known as Homestead and Rollback). The Rollback reimbursement

was eliminated for any issues approved after September 2013.

Federal Revenue is comprised of funds received relating to technology reimbursements (E-Rate) and Medicaid reimbursements relating to Federal programs.

Investment Income funds are derived from the investment of available funds in excess of the monthly cash flow requirements.

Tuition & Fees relates to receipts generated by tuition received from other districts the Lakewood City Schools is required to educate (for example,

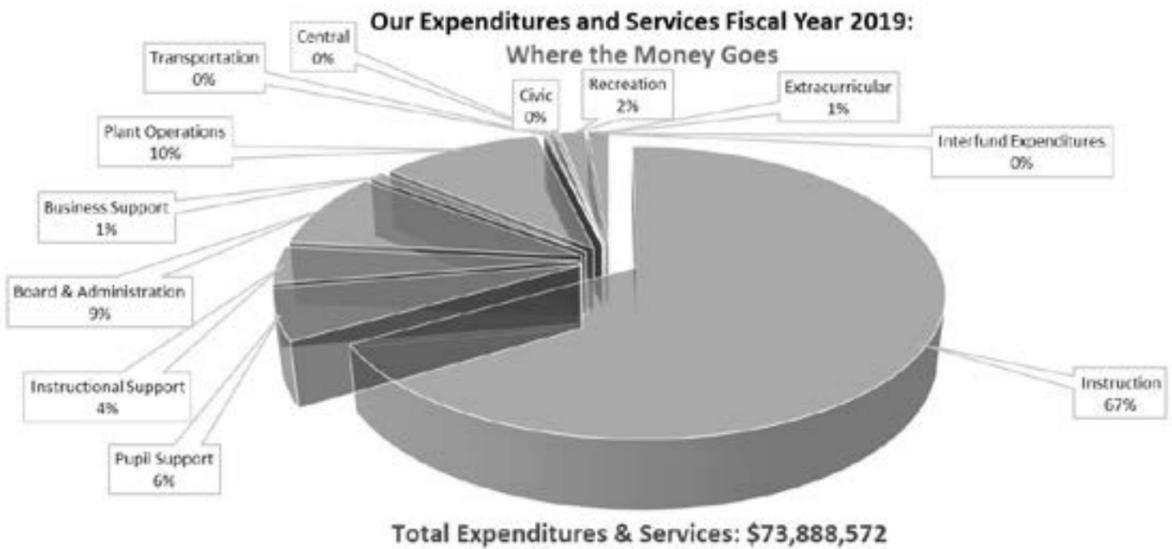
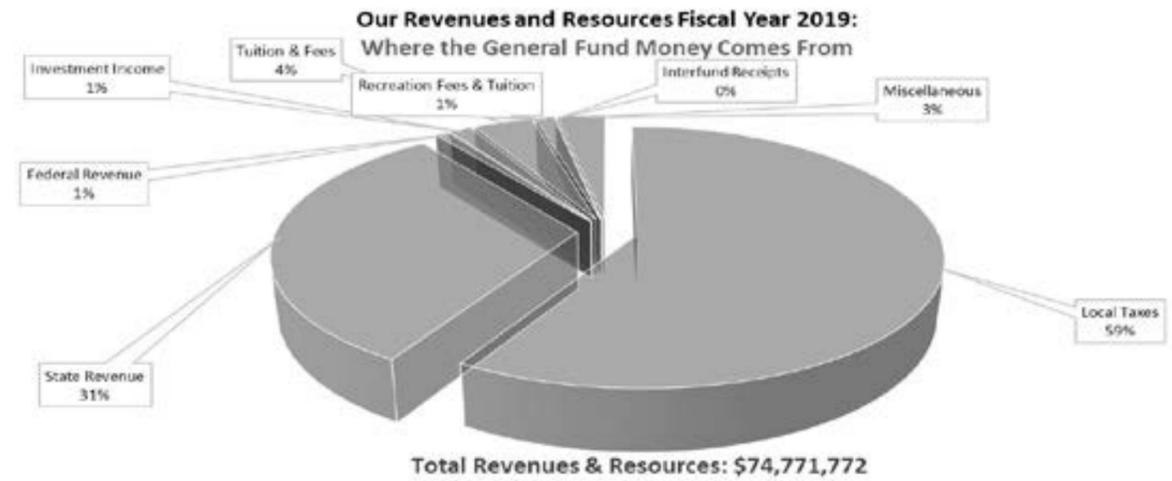
the West Shore Career-Technical District), student school fees and pay to participate fees.

Recreation Fees & Tuition relates to receipts generated by Lakewood Community Recreation and Education for the activities and programs offered throughout the year.

Interfund Receipts are comprised of internal transactions within the District that are directly offset by Interfund Expenditures.

Miscellaneous funds are made up of service agreements, building rentals, lease agreements, etc. (e.g. naming

Financial Report



rights for First Federal Lakewood Stadium and First Federal Community Fitness Center and Track).

Expenditures & Services:

Instruction is the largest expenditure category and relates to the direct instruction of our students. Students are directly impacted by the expenditures in this category.

Pupil Support areas comprise all guidance services, health/safety monitors, health aides, nurses, speech, hearing, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services,

and pupil accounting services.

Instructional Support costs include library services, curriculum development, staff training and licensed professional development committee.

Board & Administration costs represent those of the administration and Board of Education's operation of the District. Also included in this category is school building secretarial support and financial services, such as payroll, accounts payable and receivable, auditing, budgeting and reporting, and data processing.

Business Support costs include business services such as copier expenditures.

Plant Operation expenditures relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school including building maintenance, grounds and custodial services, and utilities.

Transportation expenditures relate to providing transportation for special needs students who live in the Lakewood City School District.

Central Support expenditures include administrative technology

services.

Civic expenditures include operation costs associated with the Lakewood Civic Auditorium.

Recreation expenditures account for the operations of the Lakewood Community Recreation and Education Department for the adult and youth programs provided to the residents of the City of Lakewood.

Extracurricular expenditures account for the salaries, benefits, and supplies for club and athletic related activities.

Financial Advisory Committee

In 2013, the Board of Education created a Financial Advisory Committee to work with the District Treasurer, Superintendent, and the Board Member assigned to Finance. The purpose of the committee is advisory in nature and to work in a cooperative and collaborative manner in the following areas: review the annual State Audit and address any concerns; conduct a pre-audit and post-audit meeting; share business and financial "Best Practices;" review the Five-Year Forecast; and make an annual report to the Board.

The Committee is comprised of three citizens who are Lakewood residents appointed by the Board. The Board sought citizens with financial and/or audit experience, such as CPAs, CFOs, CEOs, or bankers. In order to establish a rotation of filling one position each year, the first set of appointments include one member serving three years in length with the other two appointments being one- and two-year terms each.

The committee meets four to five times a year. Meetings dates are posted on the District calendar at www.lakewood-cityschools.org. Meetings are open to the public.

The following are the current committee members:

- Jennifer Pae, Finance Director, City of Lakewood
- Robert Torok, CPA, Director, RSM McGladrey Inc.
- Pete Nelson, Vice President, Dollar Bank
- Michael Barnes, Superintendent, Lakewood City Schools
- Kent Zeman, CFO/Treasurer, Lakewood City Schools
- Linda Beebe, Member, Board of Education
- Tom Einhouse, Member, Board of Education

The Lakewood Board of Education

Edward Favre, President
Linda Beebe, Vice President
Emma Petrie Barcelona, Member
Tom Einhouse, Member
Betsy Bergen Shaughnessy, Member

Administration

Michael J. Barnes, Superintendent
Kent Zeman, Treasurer

Editor

Christine Gordillo
216-529-4074

All courses and programs offered by the Lakewood City Schools and the West Shore Career Technical District are without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, creed, gender, marital status, disability, or age in its educational programs, activities, employment policies or admission policies as required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The district provides equal access to Boy Scouts and other designated groups. Mr. Jeffrey Schlade serves as Title IX Coordinator and Dr. Christine Palumbo as 504 Coordinator.

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Vision

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Creative and Critical Thinking: Roosevelt Elementary has STEAM Fridays. Twice a month, grade-level teams plan and implement STEAM activities. These activities have had a powerful impact on the students. We share pictures and creations in our STEAM showcase. Students are excited to working in teams to problem solve, collaborate and create. Students learn to take risks and fail. These activities have led to learning that taking risks and failing is OK.

Communication: Fifth grade students at Emerson reached out to experts on their independent research projects in Readers Workshop. These students showed communication skills by calling colleges and businesses around the country. They prepared questions and a script of what to say to these experts.

Collaboration: Each morning the crew of the Harding Morning News Crew (video announcements) collaborate to produce the show. There are different roles on the news crew to facilitate this--a floor manager, directors, graphics makers. Featured content producers work together to make each aspect of the program happen. Collaboration is the key to this program.

Empathy: Lakewood High counselor Nina Dechant's Girls Mentoring Program promotes social and academic success. Upper class students are paired with freshman girls to help them

transition into high school. They meet twice a month to develop goals, share successes, and solve common problems that girls experience in and out of school. The group is experiencing the power of peer support, empathy, compassion, and understanding.

Says Dechant: "Our group is about seeing the light in someone else when they don't see it themselves. Fostering that vision of empathy. The group has been quite uplifting for the girls and for myself."

Global Awareness: During Global Maker Day activities, Horace Mann fifth-graders participated in a challenge to create a product that meets a need in society or the environment. Working in teams the students: 1. Identify a problem in society or the environment. 2. Using the materials in the Society Box, create a product that solves this problem. 3. Be ready to explain their creation on video.

Growth Mindset: Lincoln teacher Kate Bunsey says from the first day of class she works on creating a safe learning environment, where taking risks is encouraged and students know that she expects them to make mistakes as part of learning.

Says Bunsey: "Learning is hard. Progress is not always linear and sometimes, I'm the one making the error in front of the class, taking the power away from the fear of failure. Strategic risk-taking, as well as co-create learning experiences with our students pushes us all to new levels of personal growth."



Students in Mrs. Coe's 4th grade class create and collaborate in the new Makerspace room at Lincoln Elementary.

STEM

continued from PAGE 1

STEM curriculum at the middle school will expand to include Project Lead the Way and subject-specific STEM classes that include:

- Grade 6: Green Architecture
- Grade 7: Design & Modeling

- Grade 8: Automation & Robotics

At the high school, the Ranger Hub will be expanded so that more classes may take advantage of the extensive STEM equipment available, made possible by a generous grant from the Lakewood Rangers Education Foundation.

Supt. Listen & Learn sessions

Superintendent Barnes has continued his "Listen & Learn" sessions that he began last school year as a means to hear what the Lakewood community has to say about our schools. The one-hour sessions are informal conversations



and people are welcome to drop in any time.

The upcoming sessions are:

- January 22, 12 pm, Taco Tonto's (13321 Madison Ave.)
- March 18, 6pm, Taft Center for Innovation (13701 Lake Ave.)

Come share your thoughts with Dr. Barnes.

Levy

continued from PAGE 1

which means its expenditures will outpace revenues. As good fiscal stewards, District officials must always be looking ahead, proactively monitoring funding sources, and ensuring the District remains strong while continuing to provide the educational excellence that Lakewood residents expect.

Lakewood City Schools has outlined the following areas for where the levy money would go toward:

- Adding STEM offerings to prepare students for their futures;
- Expanding career and technical educational opportunities for middle and high school students;
- Keeping educational technology and other learning materials up-to-date;
- Recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers by paying them competitive salaries;
- Providing mental health services for elementary students;
- Expanding early childhood programs for our community's youngest learners; and
- Protecting our community's investment by keeping all of our buildings, athletic fields, vehicles, and other assets in good condition.

For more information on the levy, visit www.lakewoodcityschools.org/Content/levy2020.