



5311 Longwood Avenue  
Parma, Ohio 44134

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Monitor Online  
parmacityschools.org/monitor  
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monitor@parmacityschools.org

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

Monday September 26 at 5:30 pm  
Monday October 10 at 5:30 pm  
Monday October 24 at 5:30 pm

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# Questions and Answers About the Renewal Levy

## Who?

The Parma City School District is placing a no tax increase renewal levy on the November ballot. Since this is a general election the cost of putting the levy on the ballot is minimal, and the issue is vital to our schools.

## What?

This is a renewal of a levy first passed in 1996. This renewal will not increase taxes and the funds are used to operate the schools including hiring teachers and transporting students.

## When?

The renewal will be on the November 8th general election ballot. This is a presidential election so there may be many other issues for voters to consider. Please remember to look for the levy renewal.

## Where?

All polling locations in Parma, Parma Heights and Seven Hills will have the renewal on the ballot.

## Why?

The schools are already facing a multi-million dollar shortfall. Some teachers have already lost their jobs, many highly paid administrative positions have been

eliminated, and additional cuts are being made. The renewal is for \$8,062,500 that is already included in the budget. Without it the schools would quickly fall into fiscal emergency and the State would take over the school district.

## How?

If the issue passes, the renewal funds will continue to be part of the district's funding. The renewal, by law, will not increase your taxes so this is a no tax increase renewal. If the levy fails, the district will be in desperate financial shape and the result will be bad for students, staff, parents and the community.

# THE PARMA CITY SCHOOLS MONITOR

FALL 2016



**Carl H. Hilling**  
PCSD Superintendent  
*- Expect The Best -*

## State Audit is Game Changer for Schools

Education, to our administrators, teachers, support staff, students, parents and members of the community.

Once I had gathered all of their input, I began to make changes. As I looked at our administrative staffing, I realized we simply had more administrators than we really needed. I eliminated four of the highest paid central office administrative positions. We divided up some of the duties to other administrators, hired administrators for a lesser dollar amount, or simply did not replace the position.

We were saving money, and the district was running just fine. We had made a lot of plans for this school year, and the future. Then, at the end of April, the former Treasurer left the district. As a procedural matter, we asked the

Auditors from the State of Ohio to come in and review our books. We, also, brought in some outside financial experts. Together they discovered we not only did not have a positive carryover balance from the 2015- 2016 school year (which is also our fiscal year), but we would actually be about \$7,000,000 in the hole at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

At that point everything changed. Our planning now dealt with cuts and reductions. We quickly established no tax dollars were lost or misspent. The dollars were used on educational items and personnel that may not have been necessary. Unfortunately, we now have a deficit.

You might ask, "So what does all this mean?"

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## COMMUNITY MEETINGS ENCOURAGE PUBLIC TO SPEAK UP

Superintendent Hilling and the Board of Education want to hear your thoughts. The school district is making drastic cuts because of an approximately seven million dollar shortage. In addition, the district has to submit to the Ohio Department of Education and State Auditors a plan to reduce expenditures and makeup the shortfall by September 30th. We do not now how long it will take the ODE and State Auditors to review the plan and

either approve it, or instruct the District to make additional cuts.

Your chance to speak up comes on the five dates below. From 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Superintendent Hilling and Board members will be listening to your ideas, thoughts and concerns.

There will not be any formal presentation. This is just an old fashion town hall meeting where you get to talk.

Please try to attend one or more of the sessions.

- SEPT. 20 .....Hillside Cafeteria
- SEPT. 27 .....Greenbriar Cafeteria
- OCT. 4 .....John Muir Cafeteria
- OCT. 11 .....Ridge-Brook Cafeteria
- OCT. 18 .....Parma Senior High Cafeteria

All meetings will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. with the last question being asked by 8:30 p.m.

### CONNECT WITH US

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# Seven Schools Have New Principals



**Michelle Cook** Principal Hillside  
**Samuel Dickerson II** Principal Normandy  
**Wendy Jewell** Principal Parma Park  
**Stephen Perry** Principal Ridge-Brook  
**Karl Schneider** Principal John Muir  
**Leo Spagnola** Interim Principal Parma Senior  
**Stacy Stuhldreher** Principal Greenbriar

## MICHELLE COOK

In 2015-2016, Cook was Assistant Principal at Hillside Middle School. She has served as a mathematics teacher in the district, and in administrative roles at Valley Forge, Parma and Normandy. "I want an environment where everybody is there to help everyone and, hopefully, down the road, creating that environment and that culture will help close academic gaps."

## SAMUEL DICKERSON II

Last year, Dickerson served as Deputy Principal at Normandy High School, and has been in education for over 16 years. One of his goals this year is to continue to build relationships within the community. "It's not about me, it's about us, it's about we and it's about them – people in the community and our students and teachers. Without that buy-in and without that shared vision and shared process, we won't accomplish anything."

## WENDY JEWELL

Starting her 25th year in education, Jewell comes to the PCSD after serving the last four years at the University of

Akron as Director of Student Teaching and Field Experiences. "I think being able to work with the families and teachers, but really providing the best education ... so that it's a safe place to learn, that it's an exciting place to learn, and that we're preparing them to be as independent as possible when they graduate. That's really my focus."

## STEPHEN PERRY

Perry comes to the PCSD from the Washington Local Schools in Toledo. He has a total of 18 years in education as a teacher and administrator. "When the students are here is when I can give them the opportunity to learn about me, and for me to learn about them. Excite them everyday, and make it from the moment they walk in that door until they go home from school."

## KARL SCHNEIDER

Schneider has worked most of his entire professional career in education in Parma, recently serving as Assistant Principal at Shiloh Middle School. "Having been here 14-15 years, the connection I have to the community, the families, and the kids that are here ... I'm grateful to have that

perspective to have served in the same district for so long that I could have that connection and commitment. It's just a place I love to be."

## LEO SPAGNOLA

Last year, Spagnola served as the Principal of Hillside Middle School, and has 18 years in education in a variety of teaching and administrative roles. "Kids are still kids, whether they are kindergartners or they are seniors. They really, truly need our support, and need an adult to really advocate for them and support them, nurture and hold them accountable."

## STACY STUHLREHER

Stuhldreher last year served in two different roles - as Coordinator of Student Services and then as Acting Principal at Parma Senior High School. She has over 27 years in education. "I'm very student-centered so I'm very excited to work with the kids, get to know them, see what they need. I just want to make Greenbriar a really good middle school experience for the kids, and I know we can do that with the staff working together."

## "State Audit Is Game Changer For Schools"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

First of all it means the No Tax Increase renewal on the November ballot is now an absolute, positive must. Without it we will fall quickly under state control like Lorain and Youngstown.

Secondly, it means the need to repurpose our schools because of declining enrollment, changes in our demographics and the educational issue of not having our schools set-up in an age-appropriate manner that improves the education of students.

The third event on the horizon is the district will absolutely need additional operating funds to get through this time.

Once the re-purposing is complete, and we have had a chance to actually save dollars with the changes for a few years, we should be okay, however, we must have additional funding in the meantime, or we will fall under state control.

State Control may sound like a good thing to some of you, but, believe me, it is not. The first thing that happens is families will not buy homes in a community where the schools are in trouble. The second issue is sellers will have difficulty selling their homes. The third is that your and my property will lose value just as real estate values are beginning to increase.

The fourth reason is that our proud community will be known as one that does not support education, and that really is a bad rap for any city or school district.

That is where we are now. We have had a good start to the school year. We are planning for the future, we are working to cut costs, and we are depending on our voters to support us in November, and possibly in May when we ask you for additional help to keep our schools moving towards excellence.

# The Parma Adult Community Education 2016 Fall Course Catalog is Now Available Online

## 2016 Fall Courses



### Computers & Technology

- Beginning iPad 101
- Intermediate iPad 102
- Intro to Facebook
- Introduction to Computers
- Computer Troubleshooting
- How to Buy a Computer
- Intro to Twitter/Pinterest/Instagram
- Introduction MS Word
- Intermediate MS Word
- Introduction to MS Excel
- Intermediate MS Excel
- Introduction MS Access
- Intermediate MS Access



### Financial

- Learn How to Sell on Etsy!
- Buying & Selling on eBay Part I
- Buying & Selling on eBay Part II
- How I Became A Paid Caregiver Part I
- How I Became A Paid Caregiver Part II
- FREE and Discounted Things for Seniors
- Couponing Tips and Tricks



### Personal Enrichment

- Beginning Guitar
- Enameling and Cloisonné Enameling for Beginners
- Scratchboard Art
- Gee, I'd Like to Learn to Quilt
- Learn to Quilt
- Sampler Quilt
- Handwriting Analysis I
- Handwriting Analysis II
- Writing From the Heart
- Ukrainian Egg Decorating (Pysanky) Beginners
- Ukrainian Egg Decorating (Pysanky) Intermediate
- Watercolor Painting
- Famous Photographers
- Mastering Your Digital Camera
- Creative Compositions
- Trendy Travel Photo Techniques



### Language/Culture & College Prep

- US Citizenship Test Preparation
- TOEFL Test Preparation–Test of English
- AS a Foreign Language
- ACCUPLACER Test Preparation



### Special Interest

- Learn to Buy at Auction!
- Analyzing Major League Baseball
- Looking for My Ancestors
- Basics of Astrology I
- Basics of Astrology II
- Floral Arrangement Basics for Adults
- Floral Arrangement Basics for Teens
- Floral Arrangement Basics for Parents and Children
- Floral Arrangement Basics for Adults with Special Needs



### Health, Wellness and Action

- Zumba®
- Tai Chi Flow & Qigong Exercises
- Traditional Tai Chi "Form"
- Ballroom Dancing
- Polka 101
- Statins: *What You Don't Know Could Hurt You*
- How We Beat Type 2 Diabetes
- Foil Fencing for 8 years and older
- Foil Fencing for 18 years and older

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Enrich  
& Enjoy!

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Please Visit the PCSD Website at:  
[www.parmacityschools.org/pce](http://www.parmacityschools.org/pce)