

**LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO**



**FINANCIAL FORECAST NOTES
OCTOBER 2014**

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Licking Heights Five Year Forecast

FISCAL YEAR 2015

| | Actual | | | Forecasted | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| 1.010 General Property (Real Estate) | 13,708,499 | 14,561,805 | 16,922,226 | 18,364,205 | 18,417,990 | 18,490,696 | 18,615,024 | 18,801,174 |
| 1.020 Tangible PPT | 378,609 | 389,041 | 433,285 | 491,022 | 500,543 | 508,840 | 513,996 | 529,416 |
| 1.035 Unrestricted Grants | 7,679,562 | 8,373,555 | 9,195,855 | 10,039,990 | 10,337,374 | 10,643,642 | 10,959,059 | 11,283,899 |
| 1.040 Restricted Grants | 481,354 | 88,136 | 199,152 | 202,824 | 208,400 | 214,052 | 219,874 | 225,870 |
| 1.045 Restricted Grants - SFSF | 0 | 3,334 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1.050 Property Tax Allocation | 1,826,575 | 1,964,304 | 2,259,371 | 2,427,887 | 2,452,166 | 2,476,688 | 2,501,454 | 2,526,469 |
| 1.060 All Other Revenue | 2,484,641 | 2,443,242 | 4,241,983 | 3,124,581 | 3,933,806 | 3,537,244 | 3,919,315 | 4,088,566 |
| 1.070 Total Revenue | 26,559,240 | 27,823,417 | 33,251,872 | 34,650,509 | 35,850,279 | 35,871,162 | 36,728,722 | 37,455,395 |
| 2.010 Proceeds from Sale of Notes | | 4,276,775 | | | | | | |
| 2.040 Operating Transfers - In | 246,028 | 283,847 | 105,100 | | | | | |
| 2.050 Advances - In | 284,800 | 101,037 | 162,411 | | | | | |
| 2.060 All Other Financial Sources | 56,191 | 17,297 | 184,361 | 99,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 2.070 Total Other Financing Sources | 587,019 | 4,678,956 | 451,872 | 99,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 2.080 Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources | 27,146,259 | 32,502,373 | 33,703,744 | 34,749,509 | 35,855,279 | 35,876,162 | 36,733,722 | 37,460,395 |
| 3.010 Personnel Services | 15,914,789 | 15,237,858 | 15,693,799 | 17,029,635 | 18,176,489 | 19,054,987 | 19,952,376 | 21,351,078 |
| 3.020 Benefits | 6,085,762 | 6,359,204 | 6,437,878 | 7,438,721 | 7,888,380 | 8,373,452 | 9,013,055 | 9,789,966 |
| 3.030 Purchased Services | 4,750,051 | 4,853,763 | 6,519,526 | 6,719,809 | 6,854,423 | 6,990,812 | 7,129,928 | 7,708,725 |
| 3.040 Supplies and Materials | 1,015,517 | 869,593 | 1,278,451 | 1,474,618 | 1,403,738 | 1,416,572 | 1,429,533 | 1,494,990 |
| 3.050 Capital Outlay | 1,142 | 0 | 105,510 | 126,455 | 134,185 | 135,526 | 136,882 | 138,250 |
| 4.010 Principal - All Years | 90,000 | 95,000 | | | | | | |
| 4.020 Principal - Notes | | | 1,050,000 | 1,070,000 | 1,085,000 | 1,095,000 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.050 Principal - HB 264 Loan | | | 95,000 | 100,000 | 105,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.060 Interest and Fiscal Charges | 17,488 | 13,900 | 65,979 | 47,359 | 28,424 | 11,351 | 0 | 0 |
| 4.300 Other Objects | 334,662 | 391,505 | 442,671 | 523,038 | 528,268 | 533,551 | 538,886 | 544,275 |
| 4.500 Total Expenditures | 28,209,411 | 27,820,823 | 31,688,814 | 34,529,635 | 36,203,908 | 37,611,251 | 38,200,661 | 41,027,285 |
| 5.010 Operating Transfers - Out | 138,540 | 174,947 | 1,196,855 | | | | | |
| 5.020 Advances - Out | 101,037 | 266,782 | 0 | | | | | |
| 5.040 Total Other Financing Uses | 239,577 | 441,729 | 1,196,855 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5.050 Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses | 28,448,988 | 28,262,552 | 32,885,669 | 34,529,635 | 36,203,908 | 37,611,251 | 38,200,661 | 41,027,285 |
| 6.010 Excess Revenue over(under) Expenditures | -1,302,729 | 4,239,821 | 818,075 | 219,874 | -348,628 | -1,735,089 | -1,466,939 | -3,566,890 |
| 7.010 Beginning Cash Balance | 1,440,090 | 137,361 | 4,377,182 | 5,195,257 | 5,415,131 | 5,066,502 | 3,331,413 | 1,864,475 |
| 7.020 Ending Cash Balance | 137,361 | 4,377,182 | 5,195,257 | 5,415,131 | 5,066,502 | 3,331,413 | 1,864,475 | -1,702,416 |
| 8.010 Outstanding Encumbrances | 13,132 | 27,033 | 195,776 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 | 30,000 |
| 10.010 Fund Balance June 30 for Cert. of Appropriations | 124,229 | 4,350,149 | 4,999,481 | 5,385,131 | 5,036,502 | 3,301,413 | 1,834,475 | -1,732,416 |
| 13.010 Income Tax - New | | | | | | | | |
| 13.020 Property Tax - New | | | | | | | | |
| 13.300 Cumulative Balance of New Levies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12.010 Fund Balance June 30 for Cert. of Contracts, Salaries, etc. | 124,229 | 4,350,149 | 4,999,481 | 5,385,131 | 5,036,502 | 3,301,413 | 1,834,475 | -1,732,416 |
| 15.010 Unreserved Fund Balance June 30 | 124,229 | 4,350,149 | 4,999,481 | 5,385,131 | 5,036,502 | 3,301,413 | 1,834,475 | -1,732,416 |



LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

1. Introduction

The mission of the Licking Heights Local School District is to enhance growth through learning. The quantity and quality of learning programs are related to the funding provided and the effective, efficient management of those funds. It follows that the District’s purposes can best be achieved through prudent fiscal management. Licking Heights was only one of seven school districts in the Central Ohio region to receive all A’s or B’s on the Ohio Department of Education report card for the 2014 school year.

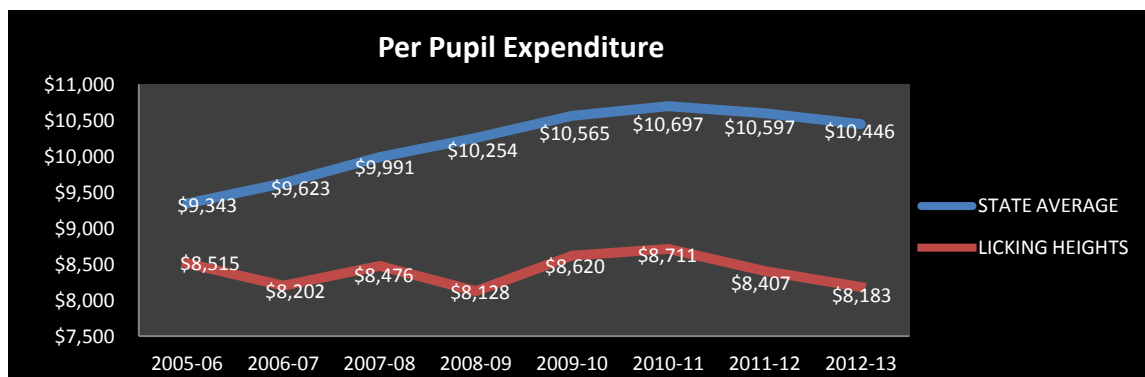
Licking Heights’ five-year forecast is an estimate of the most probable financial position as a result of operation and changes in our financial situation for the future. “Most probable” means the assumptions have been evaluated by the Treasurer, Superintendent and reviewed by the Board of Education. This forecast is based on management’s judgment of the most likely set of conditions and most likely course of action.

The five-year forecast is derived through a combination of variables, including but not limited to: history, future projected growth, curriculum & program options, fiscal and physical constraints. The forecast is also based on the assumption of future events, which are based on present circumstances and information currently available. Other factors that impact the five-year forecast (favorably or unfavorably) are changes in law, state funding, and general economic conditions. Thus, the forecast is a fluid document we continually update over time as financial conditions change. It is meant to be our best projection at the time, not an absolute projection. It is based on many assumptions, the most significant of which are outlined in these notes.

2. History

❖ **PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES:**

Ohio Department of Education per pupil expenditures for the District during fiscal year 2012 (\$8,407) and 2013 (\$8,183) ranked 81st and 71st lowest, respectively, of 607 schools. Fiscal year 2012 and 2013 state averages per pupil expenditure were \$10,597 and \$10,446, respectively. The District outperformed state averages by \$2,180 and \$2,262 per pupil during fiscal year 2012 and 2013, respectively. It amounts to savings for fiscal year 2012 and 2013 of approximately \$7.4 million and \$8.2 million, respectively. Fiscal year 2014 data is not available (Ohio Department of Education, CUPP Report). The chart below compares per pupil expenditures of Licking Heights to state average.



❖ **BUILDING INFORMATION**

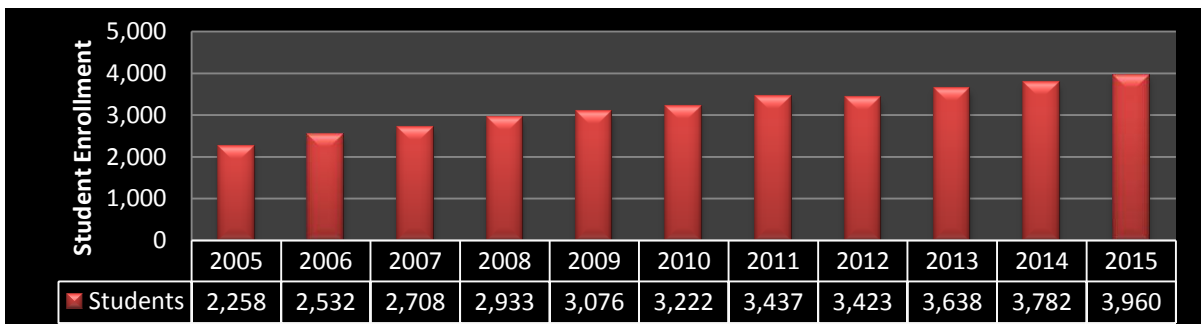
- High School
 - Original Construction (2003) – 141,000 sq. ft.



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- Central
 - Original Construction (1961) – 25,818 sq. ft.
 - Gym Addition (1968) – 35,800 sq.ft.
 - Classroom Addition (1977) – 25,414 sq. ft.
 - Classroom Addition (2000) – 11,768 sq. ft.
 - Cafeteria Addition (2005) – 9,898 sq. ft.
- North
 - Original Construction (1953) – 23,780 sq. ft.
 - Classroom Addition (1977) – 3,920 sq. ft.
 - Office Addition (1987) – 1,224 sq. ft.
 - Conference Room Addition (1990) – 318 sq. ft.
 - Classroom Addition (2002) – 14,794 sq. ft.
 - Cafeteria Addition (2005) – 9,050 sq. ft.
- West
 - Original Construction (2004) – 74,906 sq. ft.
 - Classroom Addition (2012) – 21,990 sq. ft.
- South
 - Original Construction (2004) – 95,355 sq. ft.

❖ Student enrollment has increased 75% since fiscal year 2005 as illustrated in the chart below:



❖ **BUILDING PROJECT:** The Board of Education is currently seeking architectural services to generally assist the District with technical expertise for preparing to potentially attempt a bond issue as soon as May 2015 to build new and/or renovate facilities for the all or some grade levels to address significant overcrowding issues. The Board plans to coordinate with the community to facilitate a plan. For purposes of the forecast it is assumed that a building will be constructed to educate grades 9 through 12 while grades pre-kindergarten through 8 will be reconfigured and educated throughout the space left open in the existing buildings to address the district-wide capacity problem due to overcrowding. Future forecasts will be updated to reflect the direction taken by the community, but costs will be incurred regardless of the path chosen. In the interim the district is incurring upfront costs for the addition of modular classrooms until a permanent solution can be implemented. The costs associated with the temporary modular space is expected to increase dramatically over the next few years and could significantly drain permanent improvement funds available for maintenance and education to keep pace with the need for space due to the number of students. The forecast includes the additional operating costs associated with the construction of a new building. Those costs are first reflected in fiscal year 2019 as follows:

- **Personnel Services:** The District assumes the additions of the following positions for a cost of \$768,320: Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, Maintenance, Custodians (3), one principal and teachers (5);
- **Benefits:** The additional staff added will also incur costs for health and dental insurances, retirement, Medicare and other benefits of \$268,912;



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- **Purchased Services:** The addition of the new building will incur additional costs for utilities, (i.e., electric, natural gas, water/sewage, phone), maintenance, security, technology, travel, professional development and other professional services of \$500,000;
- **Supplies:** The District does not foresee a significant increase but will incur additional costs of \$45,000 in the following supply categories: instructional due to student growth, custodial to maintain new building and administrative.

Overall, the forecast assumes an additional \$1.5 million in operating costs beginning in fiscal year 2019 resulting from the opening of a new building.

3. Financial Overview

The voters approved a 10 year \$4.4 million emergency levy in May 2013 that rescued the District from potential fiscal emergency. The state's biennium budget provided an additional \$1.2 billion for schools during 2014 and 2015. The District's enrollment growth and wealth factors allowed the District to reap the benefits of the additional funding in the biennium budget. As a result, cash balances have grown from \$124,229 in fiscal year 2012 to \$5.1 million beginning fiscal year 2015. The cash balance is strong through fiscal year 2018 assuming revenue growth from new construction, tax incentives and state funding; however, the cash balance is projected to be negative \$1.7 million at fiscal yearend 2019. The District intends to renew both emergency levies expiring in 2020 and 2022 to maintain current operating needs. An income tax levy may be necessary during the forecast period to offset increasing costs due to additional staffing and facility needs directly impacted by student growth.

4. Significant Issues to Monitor

- ❖ **STATE FUNDING (FY 16-19):** There will be a new state budget in fiscal year 2016 and the current funding formula could be changed.
- ❖ **REYNOLDSBURG SHARED GROWTH:** In fiscal year 2014, the District secured a \$1.1 million payment for a territorial revenue sharing agreement for tax years 2001-2006 from Reynoldsburg City School District, as ordered by an Arbitrator and upheld by the Court system. The Districts are discussing the application of Arbitrator's formula for tax years 2008-2013. Application of the Arbitrator's formula indicates that the District is due \$580,000 from Reynoldsburg City School District for tax years 2007-2013.
- ❖ **INCOME TAX:** The District may want to consider instituting an income tax as an alternative to property tax funding.
- ❖ **STUDENT ENROLLMENT:** The district has continued to grow and is expected to grow which is counter to the trend in Central Ohio. The district's high academic performance and attractive community means that increasing enrollment trend is likely to continue causing more strain on the existing system.
- ❖ **HEALTH INSURANCE:** Rates are up across the country but the district is likely to incur the "Cadillac tax" for its plan designs in 2018 absent a significant change. The tax could result in the district paying \$415,000 or greater in additional health costs in an unsustainable model. The forecast for increases in premiums is also higher than previously anticipated making this a major issue to monitor and look for opportunities to address.
- ❖ **NEW ALBANY TIF (TAX INCREMENT FINANCING):** The District held assumptions constant with May 2014 forecasting in the New Albany business area despite knowledge of two large AEP facilities entering the area. The District did not want to over rely on the New Albany revenue source until actual calculations are confirmed.
- ❖ **BUS GARAGE:** The District continues to evaluate and research bus garage alternatives to increase efficiencies and decrease fuel costs. The facility could be considered as part of any capital bond initiative and alleviate concerns in the general fund.
- ❖ **MODULAR CLASSROOMS:** The District anticipates the need for additional modular classroom's to compensate for overcrowding due to student growth if permanent solution is not added. The District will incur additional operating costs regardless of the direction that the community decides as the District will need to add a significant number of modular classrooms. A prolonged reliance on temporary modular classrooms as a growth solution could



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negatively impact the general fund as pressure will be put on funds allocated for operations may be needed to keep pace with the temporary classroom needs.

- ❖ **ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN:** The district is committed to all-day kindergarten and will implement once a growth plan is approved by the community to provide space district-wide for the overall growth at every level.

5. Revenue Assumptions

A. General Property Tax (1.010)

Real Estate Tax is a product of the valuation of property located within District boundaries and effective millage rates levied on such property. Here are the current real estate valuations by class:

| Type of Property | Licking/Franklin County Total |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Agricultural | 14,773,120 |
| Residential | 378,456,610 |
| Class I Total | 393,229,730 |
| Commercial | 50,045,490 |
| Industrial | 49,201,470 |
| Public Utility | 255,880 |
| Class II Total | 99,502,840 |
| Public Utility Personal | 9,540,125 |
| TOTAL VALUATION | 502,272,695 |

Assessed property values (i.e., 35% of market value) are taxed based on millage rates levied against property. A millage rate is 1/1000 of a dollar (.001). Property taxes are computed by multiplying the assessed property value by an effective millage rate (i.e., illustrated in chart below). For example, a home owner in Licking Heights with an assessed property value of \$35,000 (i.e., \$100,000 market value) would pay approximately \$1,829 in yearly property taxes before rollback and homestead tax reliefs [$\$35,000 * (1/1000 * 52.250371)$].

| Type of Levy | Term | Expiring Term | Voted Millage Rate | Effective Millage Rate |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| General Fund | | | | |
| Inside Millage | Continuing | Continuing | 4.80 | 4.800000 |
| Current Expense (1976) | Continuing | Continuing | 17.00 | 11.349421 |
| Current Expense (1980) | Continuing | Continuing | 7.90 | 5.490950 |
| Emergency Levy (2011) | 10 years | 2020 | 12.47 | 12.470000 |
| Emergency Levy (2013) | 10 years | 2022 | 8.85 | 8.850000 |
| Permanent Improvement (2009) | Continuing | Continuing | 1.99 | 1.990000 |
| Bond Fund | | | | |
| Bond (2000) | 28 years | 2027 | 1.06 | 1.060000 |
| Bond (2003) | 28 years | 2030 | 6.24 | 6.240000 |
| Total Millage Rate: | | | | 52.250371 |



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The District has experienced 1% yearly growth rates in residential/agricultural values during the last 10 years. The District has experienced 8% yearly growth rates in commercial/industrial values over the time same time period. Full collection on the \$4.4 million emergency levy passed in May 2013 will be realized in fiscal year 2015 which results in a significant increase from the prior year. The forecast assumes minimal growth of 1% yearly in total property tax values during the forecasted period.

B. Tangible Personal Property Tax (1.020)

Tangible personal property tax currently includes collections on public utility tangible tax. The last three years have seen an average revenue growth of 5% per year. The growth rate is expected to slow and is projected at 3% throughout the forecasted period.

C. Unrestricted Aid (1.035)

- ❖ **STATE FUNDING:** The State approved a biennial budget for fiscal year's 2014 & 2015 as part of House Bill 59 that enacted a new school funding formula. The formula placed an emphasis on enrollment and relative wealth. The funding formula capped district growth at 6.5% and 10.5% for fiscal year 2014 and 2015, respectively. The District was capped at 6.5% during fiscal year 2014 and is expected to be capped at 10.5% during fiscal year 2015. State funding is expected to increase 9% to \$9.8 million during fiscal year 2015; however, the cap is restricting actual funding levels within the formula. The current funding formula is dependent on the Ohio Governor election in November 2014 but early indications are that the funding formula will remain regardless. Also, the cap is expected to be increased 3% to 5% which is favorable for the District. The forecast assumes a 3% growth rate over the forecast period.
- ❖ **CASINO REVENUE:** In 2009, Ohio voters passed a constitutional amendment that provided for four casino facilities to be located in Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus and Cincinnati. The gross casino revenue tax is imposed on licensed casino operators at the rate of 33%. The tax revenue collected from the gross casino tax is split among seven funds with 34% distributed to all school districts based upon student populations. The District received casino revenue tax of \$187,412 in fiscal year 2014. Openings of new video lottery terminal facilities and horse racing tracks are expected to compete with full-service casinos which diminish substantial growth thus the forecast assumes a 1% growth rate over the forecast period.

D. Restricted Aid (1.040)

Restricted aid consists of funding for career technical and economically disadvantaged assistance. Both sources of funding pass through the state funding formula and distributed with bi-monthly state funding settlements. In fiscal year 2014, the District received \$34,787 and \$164,364 in career technical and economically disadvantage assistance, respectively. Similarly to state funding, revenue is dependent upon the Ohio governor election in November 2014. The forecast assumes a 3% growth rate over the forecast period.

E. Property Tax Allocation (1.050)

Property tax allocations include state reimbursements for real property tax relief. Within real property tax relief there are two separate programs: property tax rollbacks and homestead exemption. The property tax rollbacks programs reimburse the District for the cost of the following tax credits: a 10% reduction in each residential taxpayer's real property tax bill and an additional 2.5% on a homestead that is occupied by the homeowner. The homestead exemption provides real property tax relief to all elderly or disabled homeowners and their surviving spouses. Provisions of House Bill 59 eliminated the 10% and 2.5% rollbacks on all new levies passed beginning with the November 2013 election cycle. Revenue growth is tied to changes in current year property tax revenues which are expected to grow slowly. The forecast assumes a 1% growth rate each year.



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F. Other Revenue (1.060)

- ❖ PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES FOR TAX INCENTIVE FINANCING (TIF): A TIF is an economic development mechanism available to local governments in Ohio to finance public infrastructure improvements. A TIF works by locking in the taxable worth of real property at the value it holds at the time the authorizing legislation was approved. A taxpayer whose operations are located within a TIF continues to make payments in an amount equal to the real property tax liability and these payments in lieu of taxes are collected by the county treasurer and disbursed accordingly. Currently the District has taxpayers located within TIF locations on East Broad Street and Waggoner Road. The District received \$1.6 million in lieu of taxes during fiscal year 2014 as result of the TIF. The forecast assumes a 1% growth rate each year.
- ❖ REYNOLDSBURG REVENUE SHARING: The District has an agreement with the City of Reynoldsburg resulting from an enterprise zone agreement to exempt increases in assessed real property value constituting the project site at the intersection of Broad Street and Taylor Road. The agreement is for the purpose of sharing income tax revenues from the project. The District receives 50% of new income tax resulting from the project. The District received \$470,567 during fiscal year 2014. Expansion and new employment in this area has subsided; the forecast does not assume any substantial growth.
- ❖ NEW ALBANY INCOME TAX REVENUE SHARING: The District has an agreement with the City of New Albany to share revenue for companies having tax abatements within District boundaries on Beech Road. The area is expected to expand creating new employment opportunities and additional revenue. The pace of growth and potential revenue is uncertain; the forecast projects new revenue of \$250,000 (FY16), \$450,000 (FY17), \$650,000 (FY18) and \$800,000 (FY19). Estimates are based upon information provided by the New Albany Tax Incentive Review Council and dependent upon many fluctuating factors.
- ❖ YMCA PRESCHOOL: In fiscal year 2013, the District established an agreement with the YMCA to provide in-house preschool services to support a community need. The agreement also provides additional revenues to the District to allow the YMCA to utilize facilities. The District received \$41,016 during fiscal year 2014 and yearly income is projected to be near \$50,000 during the forecasted period.
- ❖ TUITION & OPEN ENROLLMENT: District open enrollment is closed. Circumstances do occur, such as foster placed or court ordered, where a District must educate a non-resident child. The District is eligible to receive tuition, excess costs or catastrophic costs in certain situations based upon instructional needs of a child. The District received approximately \$415,000 in fiscal year 2014; the forecast assumes no increase but we expect the revenue source to remain consistent.
- ❖ OTHER: The District receives nominal revenue from interest earnings, donations, student fees, athletic pay to participate fees and property rent. The forecast assumes no increase in these revenue sources.

6. Expenditures Assumptions

A. Personnel Services (3.010)

- ❖ CERTIFIED: The District negotiated a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the education association (LHEA) concluding June 30, 2016. The agreement provided an increase on base salary and 1% yearly increase. The District receives federal grants that help subsidize 18 teaching salaries from the general fund. The District will most likely continue to receive federal grant support in future years but the amount of support is unknown. Student enrollment continues to substantially grow and is projected to increase 300 to 500 students during the forecast. The forecast assumes an additional 24 teaching and 1 guidance FTE's during the forecast to offset potential cuts in federal aid and to compensate for student growth. The forecast assumes yearly increases due to cost of living and step increase.
- ❖ CLASSIFIED: The District negotiated a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the educational support professionals association (LHESPA) concluding June 30, 2017. The agreement provided a \$2 per hour base increase for bus drivers and \$.60 per hour for all other members in fiscal year 2015. All members will receive a



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- 1% yearly increase during the final two years of the agreement. The District is currently operating transportation with 39 bus drivers which is approximately 8-12 drivers understaffed. The District plans to meet student growth needs with either a new High School or expansion of other facilities that would require additional staffing. The forecast assumes 50 bus drivers during the five-year period. In addition, the forecast projects staffing increases in fiscal year 2019 to accommodate expansion needs due to student growth by adding custodial (3), maintenance (1) and secretarial (2) positions. The forecast assumes yearly increases due to cost of living and step increase.
- ❖ **EXEMPT:** The District has 6 employees exempted from both associations, including: superintendent's administrative assistant, EMIS coordinator, technology assistant, treasurer assistant (2), and district registrar. The District did not replace an accounts receivable position due to retirement but does plan to add a treasurer's administration assistant during fiscal year 2015 replacing a vacant assistant treasurer position. The forecast assumes yearly increases due to cost of living increases.
 - ❖ **ADMINISTRATION:** The District administration team currently includes a superintendent, treasurer, human resource director, technology director, special education director, transportation/buildings & grounds director, athletic director, principals (4) and assistant principals (5). The District did not replace an assistant treasurer position due to resignation during fiscal year 2015. In addition, the District opted to save funds by utilizing one principal to oversee two buildings. The District does plan to add a Business Manager during fiscal year 2016 to help fulfill a need to facilitate business related projects. The forecast projects administrative increases in fiscal year 2019 to accommodate expansion needs due to student growth by adding a principal and assistant principal. The forecast assumes yearly increases due to cost of living increases.

B. Retirement/Insurance Benefits (3.020)

- ❖ **MEDICAL INSURANCE:** The District's usage/claims history continues to be unfavorable where premiums increase at unsustainable rates. Rates increased 17% during 2013 and 2014. Rates are expected to increase 18.5% January 1, 2015. The District paid \$3.3 million in fiscal year 2014 for medical insurance premiums and it is projected to exceed \$4 million in fiscal year 2015. The District continues to strategize to help sustain premium increases. Each association agreed to eliminate a premium plan during negotiations that should positively impact usage/claims history. The premium plan was eliminated to help limit the risk of paying a "Cadillac Tax" in 2018; however, due to significant premium increases the District is still susceptible to the "Cadillac Tax" in 2018. Employees agreed to phase-in increased contributions up to 25% during negotiations. The District plans to evaluate and determine whether self funding and joining an insurance consortium could save money by decreasing administrative costs and eliminating other fees associated with the fully-funded plans. The District will continue to evaluate plan design, educate members and work toward reducing medical insurance costs. Medical insurance made up 52% of all benefit costs in fiscal year 2014. The forecast assumes a premium increase of 18.5% in 2015 and a yearly 10% increase for 2016 and beyond.
- ❖ **RETIREMENT:** As mandated by law, the District pays 14% of all wages for retirement to either the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) or School Employees Retirement System (SERS). The District paid \$2.4 million in retirement costs during fiscal year 2014 making up 38% of all benefit costs. Increased retirement costs are directly related to total wages. The forecast assumes retirement costs of \$2.6 million (2015), \$2.8 million (2016), \$2.9 million (2017), \$3.1 million (2018) and \$3.3 million (2019).
- ❖ **OTHER BENEFITS:** Considering medical insurance and retirement costs are 90% of benefits; other benefit costs include Medicare, dental insurance, life insurance, worker's compensation/unemployment and tuition reimbursement. The District spent \$609,000 for other benefits in fiscal year 2014. The forecast projects yearly 3% increases for life insurance and worker's compensation/unemployment. Dental insurance is projected at 5% yearly increases. Medicare is 1.45% of all wages (i.e., exceptions include wages of employees hired prior to 1986) and is projected to increase 8% yearly.



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C. Purchased Services (3.030)

- ❖ **PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES:** The District contracts with the Educational Service Center (ESCCO) of Central Ohio for substitute teaching and support staff. In fiscal year 2014, the District opted to contract these services to the ESCCO to reach a larger substitute pool and reduce administrative time on staffing. The District utilizes additional services with the ESCCO including employment of aide's, teacher evaluations, etc. The District also contracts with special education companies/specialists to help educate disadvantaged students with particular needs that the District cannot accomplish. The District expended \$2.4 million for professional & technical services in fiscal year 2014. The forecast assumes 2% yearly increase for 2015-2018 and a 4% increase in 2019 to accommodate expansion needs due to student growth.
- ❖ **UTILITY SERVICES:** The District incurs costs associated with maintaining a comfortable learning environment for students and staff by heating and cooling facilities. District utility services include electric, natural gas and water/sewage. The District expended \$805,000 in 2014 and utility costs are expected to increase. The forecast makes the following assumptions: 1. A 15% increase in electric usage for 2015 at high school due to modular classrooms; 2. A 2% increase for all other utilities for 2015-2019; and 3. The forecast assumes a new High School but expansion could result in additional modular classrooms or adding space to existing facilities. We are projecting additional electric and natural gas expenses in 2019 of \$190,000 and \$95,000, respectively, for a new high school.
- ❖ **TUITION:** The District has uncontrollable discretionary expenses for resident students attending other districts, community schools, colleges or institutions. The District expended nearly \$2.2 million in fiscal year 2014 with \$1.4 million resulting from resident students attending community schools. The District expended an additional \$330,000 for resident students open enrolling at other school districts. The District expended \$362,000 for resident students attending specialized special needs facilities. The forecast assumes a yearly 2% increase.

D. Materials & Supplies (3.040)

- ❖ **INSTRUCTIONAL:** The District allocates funds for instructional materials such as textbooks, workbooks, subscriptions, lab supplies, etc. The District expended \$412,000 in fiscal year 2014. The Board of Education adopted new math standards to comply with Ohio Department of Education requirements resulting in a need to purchase new district-wide math textbooks in fiscal year 2015. The District will experience an increase in fiscal year due to the one-time textbook purchase. Budgets are based on a per pupil basis and expected to increase due to student enrollment growth. The forecast assumes yearly 1% increases for 2016-2018 and 5% increases in 2019 to compensate for expansion needs due to student growth.
- ❖ **CUSTODIAL/MAINTENANCE:** The District incurs supply costs for maintaining buildings and grounds. The District expended \$328,000 in fiscal year 2014 on custodial and maintenance supplies. The forecast assumes yearly 1% increases for 2016-2018 and 5% increases in 2019 to compensate for expansion needs due to student growth.
- ❖ **TRANSPORTATION:** The District maintains a bus fleet of about 60 buses to transport students in the District. The District expended \$290,000 in fiscal year 2014 on fuel. The District continues to review fueling alternatives to control costs. The District expended an additional \$149,000 during fiscal year 2014 for maintenance supplies to prolong estimated bus life and ensure buses operate efficiently. The forecast assumes yearly 1% increases for 2016-2018 and 5% increases in 2019 to compensate for expansion needs due to student growth.

E. Capital Outlay (3.050)

The District's goal is to utilize other capital funds (i.e., permanent improvement) to purchase capital outlay. District expenditures include new technology equipment and custodial equipment. The forecast assumes yearly 1% increases for 2016-2019.



LICKING HEIGHTS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
LICKING COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO FIVE-YEAR FORECAST

F. Principal & Interest (4.020, 4.050 & 4.060)

Payment of principal and interest for a 4-year \$4.2 million tax anticipation note issued upon passage of the May 2013 emergency levy and bus purchase bond. The note and bond bear an interest rate of 1.25% reflected in the forecast. The note and bond will be paid in full during fiscal year 2017 and 2016, respectively.

G. Other (4.300)

Expenditures consist of auditor & treasurer fees for the billing and collection of real estate taxes, state auditor fees for audit services and employee flexible spending account disbursements. The District expended \$410,000 in fiscal year 2014 for these services. The forecast assumes yearly 1% increases for 2016-2019.

H. Advances & Transfers (5.010/5.020)

Advances are made to other funds for cash flow purposes and typically repaid by the end of each fiscal year. Transfers to other funds are permanent. The District does not assume any significant transfers or advances for fiscal years 2015 and beyond.