



10-19-2016

Dear Kings Community,

As you may already be aware, a 6.2 mill operating levy is on the November ballot for Kings Local Schools. There is a special interest group from outside of our community spreading misleading information about our schools and the proposed levy.

In order to be certain that you are properly informed about this important issue, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with the following levy facts.

Below you can read our response to the recent COAST (Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending & Taxes) mailing.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can answer any questions you may have at [tackermann@kingslocal.net](mailto:tackermann@kingslocal.net). You can also find more levy facts on our website by [clicking here](#).

Thank you for your support of Kings Schools.

Sincerely,

Tim A. Ackermann  
Superintendent

\* **Who is COAST** (Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes)

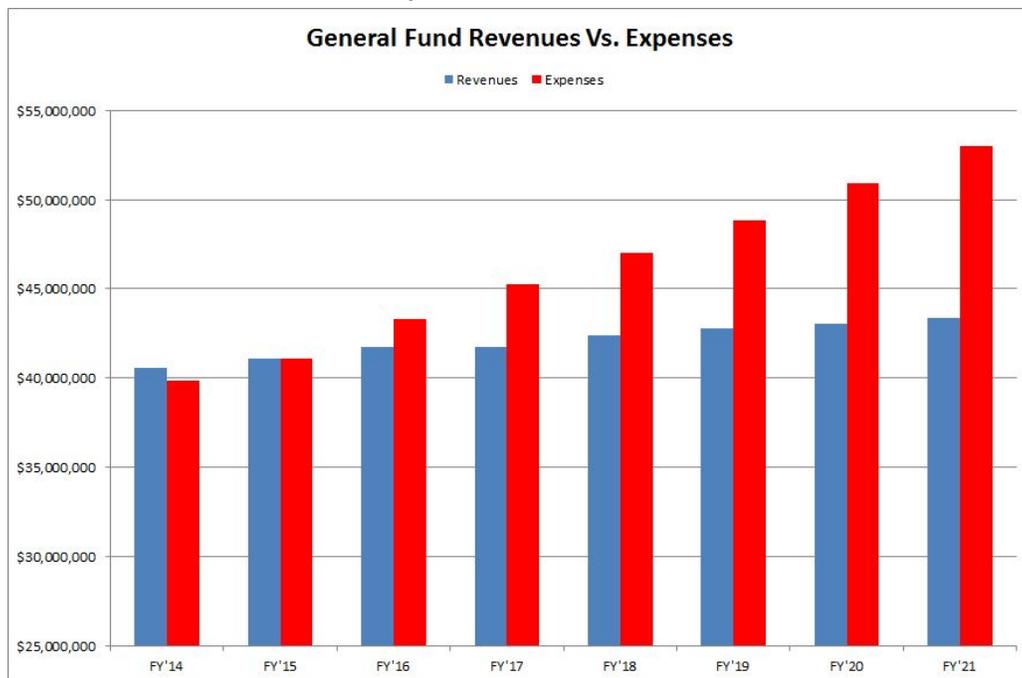
- Their address is listed as 3630 Zumstein Ave, Cincinnati, 45208
- The address for **COAST is located in Hyde Park**, outside of the school district

1. *What kind of levy is this?*

- This is a continuing operating levy, not a term levy. A levy with a limited term would require more levies to be placed on the ballot in order for them to be renewed.

2. *How much money does Kings receive in revenue?*

- In the **2014-15 school year**, Kings did spend less than we collected in revenue, hence allowing our last levy to last six years.
- In the 2015-16 school year though, Kings started spending more than we collected in revenue, which means we started to ***eat into our cash balance***.
- ***Flat funding from the State***, when combined with rising costs (due to inflation, increased enrollment, etc.) results in a ***need for additional revenues*** in the future, with no help from the State for Kings Schools.
- Furthermore, while other districts may be anticipating increases in state funding in the coming years, Kings is not, due to the ***continued phase out of the tangible personal property (TPP) tax revenues, which will be a loss of over \$4 million dollars each year.***



3. *How much of a cash balance does Kings currently maintain?*
  - We appreciate COAST pointing out that Kings spent less than we collected in revenue since 2010.
  - At the end of Fiscal Year 2016, Kings maintained a \$9 million cash balance, but also had deficit spending of \$1.6 million dollars. \$9 million dollars will cover **71 days of expenses** in the district.
  - Kings is projected to **spend \$3.5 million dollars more than is it receiving in revenue** for this school year, **due to flat funding from the State**.
  - In the 2017-18 school year, we are **projected to spend \$4.5 million more** than we are receiving in revenue.
  - With **Kings being flat funded from the State**, we are projected to have a **negative cash balance of \$5 million dollars** by the end of school year 2018-19.

### Unreserved Cash Balance on June 30

FY'14	\$ 10,443,470
FY'15	\$ 10,809,091
FY'16	\$ 9,040,952
FY'17	\$ 5,627,771
FY'18	\$ 1,044,940
FY'19	\$ (5,056,362)
FY'20	\$ (12,915,683)
FY'21	\$ (22,588,211)

4. *How much does the district spend on administrators per pupil?*
  - According to the Ohio Department of Education, Kings' **administrative expenses** per student are **11% less than the average Ohio school district**.
5. *Why does Kings use BoardDocs instead of the Ohio Online Checkbook?*
  - **Kings already publishes its checks each month** on BoardDocs.
  - Our **transparency goes beyond publishing the checkbook**, we also broadcast our board meetings each month.
  - BoardDocs also publishes our board policies, meeting minutes, and the five-year forecast.
6. *Didn't Kings just recently pay out \$625,000 in legal fees to settle a lawsuit?*
  - Representing the Board of Education, Kings' insurance company settled a lawsuit in July of 2016. The legal settlement was paid by Kings' insurance company and the **school's portion of that total was a \$5,000 deductible**. The remaining amount was paid by the insurance company.



7. *Why was there a police officer in attendance at the Kings Board of Education meetings last year?*
- The Kings School Resource Officer was asked by the previous Board of Education President to attend BOE meetings during his tenure. The Officer has not been needed/asked/required to attend since the new Board took over in January, 2016.
8. *What is the projected enrollment for Kings by 2020?*
- There are **11 new housing developments** in progress in the Kings District that are projected to increase **enrollment in the district to over 5,000** students by 2021. Current enrollment is 4,302 students.
  - Kings is using Decision Insite, an enrollment impact company, to help in planning for future growth.
  - With increased enrollment comes increased cost. Kings ***DOES NOT receive any new revenue*** from the State ***for students that are new to the district***, since we are on what is called “The Cap.” The amount of state funds that a district receives is based on a formula that takes into account the student enrollment and the property wealth of the district.
9. *Is it true that Kings collects the highest operating millage from homeowners in Warren County?*
- No. According to the Ohio Department of Taxation, Franklin City Schools has the highest effective operating millage rate in Warren County.
10. *What have you done to “tighten your belt?”*
- Since last fiscal year, the Kings School District has implemented over **\$1 million in efficiencies**.
    - i. Staff took a pay freeze 2 out the last 5 years.
    - ii. Transportation contract was renegotiated, saving over \$1 million dollars.
    - iii. All staff’s health insurance was moved to a High Deductible Health Plan, saving millions of dollars.
    - iv. Continued utility savings has saved millions of dollars for the district.
    - v. Full time instructional aides that leave the district are replaced with part time aides, which saves the district in benefits costs.
    - vi. As custodians leave the district, they are being replaced by an outside company that specializes in cleaning, at a lower employee cost per hour.
  - Our fiscal responsibility helped to make the ***last operating levy last SIX years, three years longer than promised***.
  - The ***Kings community is the owner of the school district***, and they have been very supportive of our schools. This support is invaluable and greatly appreciated as we work together to achieve our mission of providing a high quality educational product for our kids and families, and a valuable return on investment to district property owners.

