



# Newton Newsworthy

A newsletter from Superintendent, Mr. Pat L. McBride  
June 2018



## ***Newton Uses State Program to Retrofit Lighting and Make Other Cost Saving Upgrades***

A couple of months ago, the Board of Education approved an agreement with Energy Optimizers, USA, LLC which allows the District to take advantage of the unique 10 year energy savings service program. In doing so, it allowed the Superintendent and Treasurer to sign an energy savings service agreement and to issue a purchase order to pay for the energy savings services agreement in the amount of \$376,750. Because of this action, the district will save at least 11% to 15% on energy cost per year.

This savings is realized through the retrofitting of all lights within the building to more energy efficient LED lighting which replaces all florescent bulbs and fixtures. There are other benefits to LED lighting being installed in the school. This lighting is much brighter than florescent lighting allowing for the interior of the building to appear more aesthetically pleasing. This lighting has demonstrated to have a positive effect on student learning and on morale.

In addition to all lighting being replaced, changes to the building climate control system are being made. This change will allow our entire facility to be operated as one building using computer software designed to make the HVAC system efficient at all times of the day, week, month, and for the entire year. The software can also be accessed remotely or off site if need be. To date, the new building has been on a separate control system from that of the 1999 addition. Rather than controlling the climate as two separate systems, we will now be able to operate the entire facility more efficiently as one complete facility.

This state program allows for the district to be guaranteed a specific rate of savings by the contractor. If that rate of savings is not realized for any reason, the contractor would have to pay the district the difference. It's estimated that the district will realize the savings which will equal the initial

outlay in 8 to 10 years. After that, the district will save money on utility bills equaling 11-15% each and every year from what we would have paid if these changes weren't made. This is, without a doubt, a great decision on the part of the board and having a long term vision to save tax payer dollars.



New LED lighting in the 1999 gym. Smaller but brighter!

## ***Newton Track and Field Facility Hosted Several Meets This Spring***

The 2018 Spring sports season marks the first time Newton has been able to host track meets for the boys and girls participating in Junior High and High School Track and Field. Construction on the track facility began in the Fall 2015. Since then, field event areas for shot put and discus have been added along with a multi-purpose press box/concession stand that will also be used for summer recreation baseball. The press box has been equipped with a sound system and technology for electronic timing and scorekeeping for all running events.

Newton hosted the first Indian Twilight Invitational meet to include 9 schools. This meet was held under the lights and provided our student athletes with one of the premier track and field events of the season!

Newton also hosted a Junior Quad track meet and a High School 5 team track meet. For all those who have attended a meet, many have heard fans from other schools commenting on our facility and

how nice it is. The community can be proud of this facility!

We invite the community to use our track for exercise and for running or walking. The track has an all-weather rubber composite surface and is slightly “softer” than asphalt.

We only ask that anyone using the track adhere to the guidelines posted on the fence as you enter the facility. We ask that no pets be in the fenced area and that a walker/jogger use certain lanes on certain days of the week to insure even wear on the track.



High School Track and Field event April 13, 2018

## *Newton Financial Position Remains Strong as Capital Improvements are Made*

The financial position of Newton Schools has improved over the last couple of years. Several key factors contributing to our improved position would

	Actual FY 17	Actual FY 18	Projected FY19
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Gen Prop Tax	\$1,287,887	\$1,358,258	\$1,313,774
Inc. Tax	1,447,865	1,454,863	1,476,967
State Grant Aid	3,059,660	3,128,050	3,091,762
All Other Rev.	1,000,765	1,270,249	1,020,880
<b>Total Rev.</b>	<b>\$6,796,177</b>	<b>\$7,211,420</b>	<b>\$6,903,383</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Personal Svc	\$3,454,546	\$3,632,374	\$3,700,596
Ret./Ins. Ben.	1,207,863	1,332,406	1,281,422
Purch. Svc.	917,343	877,741	943,500
All other Exp.	835,490	1,070,685	676,616
<b>Total Exp.</b>	<b>\$6,415,242</b>	<b>\$6,913,206</b>	<b>\$6,602,134</b>
Rev. – Exp. =	\$380,935	\$298,214	\$301,249
<b>C/O Fund Bal.</b>	<b>\$2,632,110</b>	<b>\$2,930,324</b>	<b>\$3,231,573</b>

be an increase in our state per pupil funding, a growing in-coming open enrollment population coupled with a dwindling outgoing population, and sound financial planning.

As a district, we adopted a “pay-as-you-go” philosophy at the time during and after the 2010 building project. The overall facilities have been developed and improved without asking residence of the district for new tax revenue. We believe we have one of the nicest campus wide facilities around. We receive compliments continuously about our grounds and our buildings. We want our facilities to be a source of pride for our community, students, and parents. We will continue to be fiscally responsible while maintaining high standards for the upkeep and maintenance of our campus.

## Highly Successful Spring Season for Newton Athletic Teams



Newton Shot Putter Dawson Hildebrand on the Medal Podium at the 2018 State Track Meet held at Jesse Owen Stadium at OSU

### *2018 Newton Track Season*

There was great participation this spring in boys and girls track at both the Junior High and High School level. At the high school level, several track athletes qualified for regional competition and two athletes made it to compete at the state meet in Columbus at the Ohio State University Jesse Owen Stadium. Qualifying for the regional meet were Ethan Cook in the 100 meter dash (13<sup>th</sup> place), Dawson Hildebrand in the Shot Put (2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Regional and District Champion), and Cameron Stine (District and Regional Champ in the High Jump, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 110 meter Hurdles, 8<sup>th</sup> in the 300 meter hurdles. Cameron and Dawson qualified to participate in the state track meet by being in the top 4 finishers in their respective events at the regional meet. Dawson placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall in the state in the shot put allowing him to receive his medal on the podium in front of more than 9,000 fans.



*Newton Track continued . . .*

Cameron competed in both the high jump and 110 hurdles at the state meet placing 10<sup>th</sup> in the high jump. We are extremely proud of how our track teams competed this year and especially Dawson and Cameron for being state qualifiers!

## ***2018 Newton Baseball Season***



***2018 Cross County Conference Baseball Champions***

The baseball team had a great season! The season began with a spring break trip to Cocoa Beach, Florida in early April. The team played four extremely strong teams while there. The team won 3 games and lost 1 to complete the successful southern sunny state trip. Upon their return to Ohio, the team went on to win the Cross County Conference with an 11-2 conference record. Although the boys lost to Southeastern in the Section Final game in a heartbreaker 1-0, we are extremely proud of the team and what they accomplished this year!

Treg Jackson was selected as the Player of the Year in the conference. Treg, Ryan Mollette, and Cole Weaver were selected to the 1<sup>st</sup> team CCC. Coach Jordan Kopp was selected as Coach of the Year in the CCC. Congratulations boys and Coach Kopp!

## ***2018 Newton Softball Season***

The Newton softball team also had a wonderful season! Our softball team played an extremely tough schedule. It allowed them to compete against the best teams in the area and become one of the best teams themselves in the state! Our girls were outright Champions of the Cross County Conference and also District Champions before bowing out in the regional finals to a very

strong Parkway team. The Newton softball team had an overall conference record of 11-2 beating the state bound Bradford Railroaders early in the season. That game ended up being an important victory in winning the conference.

Kristen Rappold and Kylee Fisher were selected to the 1<sup>st</sup> team CCC with Coach Mark Gibson being named Coach of the Year in the CCC. Kylee Fisher was also selected as AP First Team All-Ohio!



***2018 Cross County Conference Champs and District Champs***

## ***Preliminary State Test Scores Look Good for Newton Local***

The overall performances on the Ohio State Test by Newton students are favorable as compared to other districts in Miami County. There are still verifications to be made at certain grade levels. However, these preliminary scores suggest that Newton teachers are once again doing a great job and students are doing the best that they can do when taking these tests.

At Newton, we take a different approach than most other schools. Some districts are borderline obsessed with improving test scores and spend a great amount of resources doing so. We take these tests seriously. We wish to give every student that chance to succeed on these tests. However, we simply place the importance on good instruction. This includes so much more than teaching the contents of the material to be tested. Our teachers know the standards that are to be taught and our students take these tests with confidence. No one, either teachers or students are pressured with testing mania! As an administrator, I feel like most that these tests are unreliable and ineffective in providing data to drive quality instruction. These state tests are often used to evaluate

teachers which they were never designed to do. We do not object to accountability. We do object to lawmakers making decisions and laws about the educational process when they are neither trained as an educator nor well informed on educational matters. *(Please read ESC Superintendent Tom Dunn's editorials in the Troy Daily news about these educational topics!)*

## ***A Good Year for the Newton Music Program***

This year was another successful year for students in our Newton Bands and Choirs. In the fall, The Newton marching band received many awards, including best overall visual, first place general effect, first place music, first place band, as well as Excellent and Superior ratings. The season culminated with an Excellent rating at OMEA state contest in Class A, the first time since 2014 the group has qualified for state in class A. Meanwhile, the high school choir learned an emotionally moving song based on the poem, "in Flanders fields," to perform for Veterans Day.

In January, high school band and choir students performed at OMEA Solo and Ensemble event, earning four Superiors, seven Excellent ratings, and one Good rating. The high school choir also prepared for OMEA District contest, earning an excellent rating in early March. Select junior high band and choir students then performed in mid-April at the OMEA Jr High Solo and ensemble event, earning seven instrumental superior ratings, one vocal superior rating, five vocal excellent ratings, and one Instrumental excellent rating.

Capping off the year, the junior high choir received an excellent rating at district contest in May. The junior high band received a superior rating at contest in May, achieving a superior for the first time since 2012. The high school band elected their first leadership committee: congratulations to Ricky Landwehr on being selected the 2018-2019 Band President, and congratulations to Josie Marple on being selected this fall's marching band Field Commander. For next season, the high school marching band will begin work this summer on their show, "The Pursuit of Happiness," featuring the tunes of Bohemian Rhapsody, Coldplay's Fix You, Beethoven, and Dvorak. The group also is excited to travel to Universal Studios and Walt Disney World next spring.

Congratulations to 2018 graduate and former field commander Drew Thiesing who was this year's John Philip Sousa Award winner! Drew will continue his music education at Wright State University where he has been accepted into their School of Music.

## ***Potential Building Project Explored***

Our district is exploring a potential "design build" construction project to meet the growing demand for use of our facility by our community, off-season athletes, and youth athletic programs. It should be immediately known

to all that if this project is to move forward to an actual construction phase, there will be no need or attempt to raise additional tax revenue by putting a levy on the ballot for voters to approve. This project would similar to all other capital improvement projects over the last several years. It will be a "pay as you go" facility not requiring any additional funds from district tax payers.

This facility, if built, would be a multipurpose Athletic/Community Center. We envision that it could be used by the public during the school day and on weekends. It would be a stand-alone building not attached to the current building which houses all instruction. It could also be used by the community during certain times after school for weight lifting, running/walking, exercise classes, meeting/ conference rooms, social occasions, family gatherings and general exercise. The building could also be used by youth sports such as elementary basketball, summer rec baseball, SAY soccer, and serve as a practice facility for our marching band during inclement weather.

A design has not been developed yet for this building. However, we envision that it would contain a social meeting area with a small kitchen area (much like our current board room), a regulation high school gymnasium basketball court with a walking surface around the court area, an area for a year-round batting/pitching cage, two locker rooms to also serve the facility and the baseball and softball teams during the spring season, and an adequate weight room to serve larger groups than we currently have.

The potential building site for such a facility would be in the area to the north of our cafeteria area but south of the concession stand near the softball field. The marching band practice field could be relocated to the infield of the track where there would be a regulation size football field, a tower equipped with a public address system complete with an area for storage.

There are several reasons for exploring this project. 1) Our facilities are in high demand from our community members for all kinds of events. We appreciate the public wanting to use our facilities. We make every effort to accommodate the requests that we receive. However, often our athletic and music programs are using both gymnasiums until 9:00 p.m. or later.

2) Our building is often used by community members to host family gatherings/celebrations, by church organizations for youth activities or general gatherings, and for many other similar events. Allowing these activities in a separate building would allow much more availability. 3) We want to offer our community and kids what many other communities have. We want to give people, especially young couples who are looking to start a family, a wonderful school with great facilities that offers their children the same opportunities that other communities offer. 4) The current economic and financial environment allows us to explore this potential and thus makes this a great time to do so!