



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County, Ohio**

**Financial Forecast
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015**

Local Government Services Section

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Financial Planning and Supervision Commission
Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43125

and

Board of Education
Bellaire Local School District
340 34th Street
Bellaire, Ohio 43906

CERTIFICATION

Certification is hereby made that, based upon the requirement set forth in Section 3316.08, Revised Code, the Local Government Services Section of the Auditor of State's Office has examined the financial forecast of the general fund of the Bellaire Local School District, Belmont County, Ohio, and issued a report dated February 24, 2015. The forecast is based on the assumption that the School District will continue to operate its instructional program in accordance with its adopted school calendar and pay all obligations. Additional significant assumptions are set forth in the forecast. Some assumptions inevitably will not materialize, and unanticipated events and circumstances may occur; therefore, the actual results of operations during the forecast period will vary from the forecast, and the variations may be material.

The forecast reflects an operating surplus for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 of \$2,059,000.

The forecasted revenues include all property taxes scheduled for settlement during the forecast period. The forecast excludes the receipt of any advances against fiscal year 2016 scheduled property tax settlements. The potential advances have been excluded due to the School District's inability to appropriate this revenue until received and the uncertainty of the timing of any advances. The forecasted operating deficit may be reduced to the extent tax advances are received prior to June 30, 2015 and to the extent the Board appropriates such advances. Currently, it is the Board's intent not to appropriate any such advances for fiscal year 2015.

DAVE YOST
Auditor of State

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Unice S. Smith
Chief of Local Government Services

March 31, 2015

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Education
Bellaire Local School District
340 34th Street
Bellaire, Ohio 43906

Independent Accountant's Report

We have examined the accompanying forecasted statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance of the general fund of the Bellaire Local School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The Bellaire Local School District's management is responsible for the forecast. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the forecast based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with the attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and accordingly, included such procedures as we considered necessary to evaluate both the assumptions used by management and the preparation and presentation of the forecast. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accompanying forecast is presented in conformity with guidelines for presentation of a forecast established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the underlying assumptions provide a reasonable basis for the Board's forecast. However, there will usually be differences between the forecasted and actual results, because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material. We have no responsibility to update this report for events and circumstances occurring after the date of this report.

The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance arising from cash transactions of the general fund for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2012, 2013, and 2014 were compiled by us and we have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements, and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance about whether the financial statements are in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements. Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. Management has chosen to omit the disclosures associated with the cash basis of accounting.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

DAVE YOST
Auditor of State

February 24, 2015

Bellaire Local School District
 Belmont County
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
 For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2012 Through 2014 Actual;
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 Forecasted
 General Fund

	Fiscal Year 2012 Actual	Fiscal Year 2013 Actual	Fiscal Year 2014 Actual	Fiscal Year 2015 Forecasted
Revenues				
General Property Taxes	\$1,963,000	\$2,110,000	\$2,172,000	\$2,205,000
Unrestricted Grants-in-Aid	8,800,000	9,171,000	9,998,000	8,787,000
Restricted Grants-in-Aid	26,000	28,000	263,000	300,000
Restricted Federal Grants-in-Aid - SFSF and Education Jobs	244,000	16,000	0	0
Property Tax Allocation	334,000	343,000	344,000	348,000
All Other Revenues	1,030,000	969,000	920,000	933,000
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>12,397,000</u>	<u>12,637,000</u>	<u>13,697,000</u>	<u>12,573,000</u>
Other Financing Sources				
Solvency Assistance Advance	1,775,000	0	0	0
Advances-In	0	83,000	0	0
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	<u>1,775,000</u>	<u>83,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources</i>	<u>14,172,000</u>	<u>12,720,000</u>	<u>13,697,000</u>	<u>12,573,000</u>
Expenditures				
Personal Services	5,896,000	5,028,000	5,137,000	4,932,000
Employees' Retirement/Insurance Benefits	3,271,000	2,558,000	2,664,000	2,797,000
Purchased Services	2,173,000	2,326,000	2,648,000	2,728,000
Supplies and Materials	391,000	409,000	448,000	468,000
Capital Outlay	50,000	84,000	186,000	290,000
Debt Service:				
Principal-Solvency Assistance Advance	2,470,000	1,524,000	887,000	0
Other Objects	167,000	139,000	134,000	138,000
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>14,418,000</u>	<u>12,068,000</u>	<u>12,104,000</u>	<u>11,353,000</u>
Other Financing Uses				
Advances Out	83,000	0	0	100,000
<i>Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</i>	<u>14,501,000</u>	<u>12,068,000</u>	<u>12,104,000</u>	<u>11,453,000</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under) Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</i>	(329,000)	652,000	1,593,000	1,120,000
Cash Balance (Deficit) July 1	58,000	(271,000)	381,000	1,974,000
Cash Balance (Deficit) June 30	(271,000)	381,000	1,974,000	3,094,000
Actual/Estimated Encumbrances June 30	36,000	63,000	179,000	150,000
Restricted for:				
Budget Stabilization	0	0	0	685,000
Termination Benefits	0	0	0	200,000
Bus Purchase	6,000	0	0	0
Total Encumbrances and Restricted Fund Balance	<u>42,000</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>179,000</u>	<u>1,035,000</u>
Unencumbered/Unrestricted Fund Balance (Deficit) June 30	<u>(\$313,000)</u>	<u>\$318,000</u>	<u>\$1,795,000</u>	<u>\$2,059,000</u>

See accompanying summary of significant forecast assumptions and accounting policies
 See independent accountant's report

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Note 1 - The School District

The Bellaire Local School District (the School District) is located in Belmont County and encompasses all of Pultney Township, areas of Richland Township and the Village of Bellaire. The School District is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3, of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The legislative power of the School District is vested in the Board of Education, consisting of five members elected at large for staggered four year terms. The School District currently operates one elementary school, one middle school, one high school, one administration building, two maintenance buildings and one bus garage. The School District is staffed by 71 classified and 80 certificated personnel to provide services to approximately 1,230 students and other community members.

Note 2 - Nature of the Forecast

This financial forecast presents, to the best of the Bellaire School District Board of Education's knowledge and belief, the expected revenues, expenditures and operating balance of the general fund. Accordingly, the forecast reflects the Board of Education's judgment of the expected conditions and its expected course of action as of February 24, 2015, the date of this forecast. The assumptions disclosed herein are those that management believes are significant to the forecast. Differences between the forecasted and actual results will usually arise because events and circumstances frequently do not occur as expected, and those differences may be material.

Note 3 - Nature of the Presentation

The forecast presents the revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance of the general fund. Under State law, certain general fund revenues received from the State must be spent on specific programs. These resources and the related expenditures have been segregated in the accounting records of the School District to demonstrate compliance. State laws also require the general fund resources pledged for the repayment of debt to be recorded directly in the debt service fund. For presentation in the forecast, the education jobs fund, the termination benefits fund, and general fund supported debt are included in the general fund.

Note 4 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

This financial forecast has been prepared on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances, which is consistent with the required budget basis (non-GAAP) of accounting used to prepare the historical financial statements. Under this basis of accounting, certain revenue and related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned and certain expenditures are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred. However, by virtue of Ohio law, the School District is required to maintain the encumbrance method of accounting. This method requires purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies to be recorded as the equivalent of an expenditure in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance.

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Fund Accounting

The School District maintains its accounting in accordance with the principles of "fund" accounting. Fund accounting is a concept developed to meet the needs of governmental entities in which legal or other restraints require the segregation of specific receipts and disbursements. The transactions of each fund are reflected in a self-balancing group of accounts, an accounting entity which stands separate from the activities reported in other funds. The restrictions associated with each class of funds are as follows:

Governmental Funds

General Fund - The general fund is the operating fund of the School District and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is disbursed or transferred in accordance with Ohio law.

Special Revenue Funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted or committed to expenditure for specific purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The term *proceeds of specific revenue sources* establishes that one or more specified restricted or committed revenues should be the foundation for a special revenue fund.

Debt Service Fund - Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to payment of principal and interest. Debt service funds should be used to report resources if legally mandated (i.e. debt payable from property taxes). Financial resources that are being accumulated for principal and interest maturing in future years also should be reported in debt service funds.

Capital Projects Funds - Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. Capital projects funds exclude those types of capital-related outflows financed by proprietary funds or for assets that will be held in trust for individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

Permanent Funds - Permanent funds should be used to account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs – that is, for the benefit of the School District or its students. Permanent funds do not include private-purpose trust funds, which should be used to report situations in which the School District is required to use the principal or earnings for the benefit of individuals, private organizations, or other organizations.

Proprietary Funds

Enterprise Funds - Enterprise funds account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services.

Internal Service Funds – Internal service funds account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the School District, or to other governments on a cost-reimbursement basis.

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the School District in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, or other governmental units. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and agency funds.

Budgetary Process

The budgetary process is prescribed by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The certificate of estimated resources and the appropriations resolution are subject to amendment throughout the year with the legal restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources, as certified. All funds, other than agency funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated.

Budget - A budget of estimated cash receipts and disbursements is submitted to the Belmont County Auditor, as secretary of the county budget commission, by January 20 of each year, for the succeeding fiscal year.

Estimated Resources - The county budget commission certifies its actions to the School District by March 1. As part of this certification, the School District receives the official certificate of estimated resources which states the projected receipts of each fund. On or about July 1, this certificate is amended to include any unencumbered balances from the preceding year. Prior to June 30, the School District must revise its budget so that total contemplated expenditures from any fund during the ensuing fiscal year will not exceed the amount stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget then serves as the basis for the annual appropriation measure.

Appropriations - A temporary appropriation measure to control cash disbursements may be passed on or about July 1 of each year. The temporary appropriation measure remains in place until the annual appropriation measure is adopted for the entire year. The appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented during the year as new information becomes available.

Encumbrances - The School District uses the encumbrance method of accounting. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve a portion of the applicable appropriation.

Note 5 - General Operating Assumptions

The Bellaire Local School District will continue to operate its instructional program in accordance with its adopted school calendar and pay all obligations. The forecast contains those expenditures the Board of Education has determined to be necessary to provide for an adequate educational program.

Bellaire Local School District
 Belmont County
 Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Note 6 - Significant Assumptions for Revenues and Other Financing Sources

General and Tangible Personal Property Taxes

Property taxes are applied to real property, public utility real and manufactured homes which are located within the School District. Property taxes are collected for, and distributed to, the School District by the county auditor and treasurer. Settlement dates, on which collections are distributed to the School District, are established by State statute. The School District may request advances from the Belmont County Auditor as the taxes are collected. When final settlements are made, any amounts remaining to be distributed to the School District are paid. Deductions for auditor and treasurer fees, advertising delinquent taxes, election expenses, and other fees are made at these settlement times. The amounts shown in the revenue section of the forecast represent gross property tax revenue.

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis while the School District's fiscal year runs from July through June. Property tax revenue received during calendar year 2015 (the collection year) for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of 2014 taxes (the tax year). First half calendar year tax collections are received by the School District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second half calendar year tax distributions occur in the first half of the following fiscal year.

State law allows for certain reductions in the form of homestead exemptions on all real estate levies, and rollbacks for real estate tax levies enacted prior to November 2013. The State reimburses the School District for all revenues lost on eligible levies due to these exemptions. The amount of the reimbursement is presented in the account "Property Tax Allocation".

Prior to fiscal year end, a school district may request an advance of real property tax collections that ordinarily would be settled in August and used to finance the upcoming fiscal year. The forecast excludes the receipt of any advances against the next fiscal year scheduled property tax settlements. The potential advances have been excluded due to the School District's inability to appropriate this revenue until received and the uncertainty of the timing of any advances. Currently, it is the Board's intent not to appropriate any such advances for fiscal year 2015.

The property tax revenues for the general fund are generated from the levies listed below. The levies being collected for the general fund and the full tax rate are as follows:

<u>Tax Levies</u>	<u>Year Approved/ Renewed</u>	<u>Full Tax Rate (Per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation)</u>
Inside Ten Mill Limitation (Unvoted)	n/a	\$4.50
Continuing Operating	1976	23.00
Total Tax Rate		<u>\$27.50</u>

The School District has other levies that total \$7.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value; \$3.50 is used for the payment of bonds issued for the construction of school facilities, \$0.50 is used for the upkeep of school facilities, and \$3.00 is used for permanent improvements. The School District's total tax rate is \$34.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Ohio law provides for a reduction in the rates of voted levies to offset increased values resulting from a reappraisal of real property. Reduction factors are applied to voted levies so that each levy yields the same amount of real property tax revenues on carryover property as in the prior year. Reduction factors are also adjusted to generate the same amount of property tax revenue on carryover property when there is a decline in the assessed valuation of property. For all voted levies, except emergency and debt levies, increases in revenues are restricted to amounts generated from new construction. Emergency and debt levies are intended to generate a set revenue amount annually. The revenue generated by emergency and debt levies is not affected by changes in real property valuation. The reduction factors are computed annually and applied separately for residential/agricultural real property and commercial/industrial real property. Reduction factors are not applied to inside millage (an unvoted levy). State law also prohibits the reduction factors from reducing the effective millage of the sum of the general fund current operating levies (excluding emergency levies) plus inside millage used for operating purposes below 20 mills. For the general fund, the effective residential and agricultural real property tax rate is at \$20.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection year 2015, and the effective commercial and industrial real property tax rate is \$20.16 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection year 2015.

Public utility personal property taxes are collected and settled by the county with real estate taxes and are recorded as general property taxes.

General Property Tax - General property tax revenue includes real estate taxes, public utility property taxes and manufactured home taxes. The amount shown in the revenue section of the forecast schedule represents gross property tax revenue and is based upon information provided by the Belmont County Auditor. The School District anticipates a slight increase in the amount of \$33,000 due primarily to a slight increase in assessed valuation.

Unrestricted Grants-in-Aid

In fiscal year 2011, Ohio school districts received their funding under the Ohio Evidence-Based Model (OEBM) that was established in Chapter 3306 of the Ohio Revised Code and linked to educational research on academic achievement and successful outcomes with funding components to achieve results. It incorporated real financial data and socioeconomic factors to fund resources and implement proven school programs according to the student need to achieve educational adequacy. The adequacy amount was the sum of service support components for instruction, administrative, operations and maintenance, gifted and enrichment, professional development and an instructional materials factor. These factors are multiplied against the Ohio education challenge factor (a district's wealth factor) and the State-wide base salary for given positions and the number of positions funded. Other factors included in the calculation were student/teacher ratios, organizational units, and average daily membership (ADM). The adequacy amount was offset by the school district's share of the adequacy amount (the charge off amount), which was equal to 21 mills for 2012 and 2013 and 20 mills for 2014 and thereafter.

Beginning in fiscal year 2012, the administration of Governor John Kasich proposed to move away from the Ohio Evidence-Based Model to a new funding method. However, since a new funding mechanism was not formulated at that time, the Administration decided to fund school districts in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 based on a transitional approach until a new formula was devised. This transitional approach was referred to as the Bridge Formula. The Bridge Formula divided the fiscal year 2011 OEBM funding by a calculated ADM to determine the per pupil funding. The per pupil funding was then multiplied by the fiscal year 2012 and 2013 ADM. The adequacy amount was offset by the school district share of the adequacy amount (the charge off amount), which was equal to 21 mills of property taxes for fiscal year 2012 and 2013. In addition to this adjustment, each school district's fiscal year 2012 and 2013 funding

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

was further adjusted so that the school district received at least the total funding it received in fiscal year 2011 after subtracting the state fiscal stabilization funds from total funding, as well as to provide financial incentives for high performing school districts.

In fiscal year 2014, the State General Assembly adopted a new funding method to replace the Bridge Formula. The new foundation formula includes a base amount of funding per pupil, known as the Opportunity Grant, and also provides additional funding for a number of different services designed to serve the needs of various populations of students. The Opportunity Grant is calculated using a per pupil amount multiplied by the Average Daily Membership (ADM). For fiscal year 2014, the ADM count continued to use the current fiscal year count taken during the first full week of October. This amount was then multiplied by the State Share Index, which factored in the property wealth and the income of residents of the School District. These calculations are a multi-step process and are reflected on the School Finance Payment Report (SFPR). The foundation formula provides for a Transitional Guarantee which guarantees that no district will receive less in total fiscal year 2015 funding than it received in fiscal year 2013 (including transportation aid and funding for career technical education). Although the formula guarantees at least the fiscal year 2013 total funding, it also caps the fiscal year 2015 calculated funding at 10.5 percent above the fiscal year 2014 level.

During fiscal year 2014, the School District received \$560,000 in excess transportation funding as a result of inaccurate information reported to the Department of Education. This excess is being withheld during fiscal year 2015 (see table below). Based on the most current foundation settlement, the Bellaire Local School District estimates \$8,624,000 in foundation funding for fiscal year 2015.

In addition to the State Foundation revenue, the School District also receives unrestricted grants-in-aid revenue from casino revenue and from Belmont County Department of Disabilities to assist in providing services to qualifying students. The first three casinos opened in calendar year 2012, and one more casino opened in 2013. Of the casino revenue collected by the State, thirty-four percent is distributed to school districts, based on student population.

The School District is forecasted to receive a total of \$8,787,000 in unrestricted grants-in-aid.

Revenue Sources	2012	2013	2014	2015	Variance
<u>Foundation:</u>					
Unrestricted State Aid	\$8,800,000	\$9,145,000	\$9,833,000	\$9,184,000	(\$649,000)
Fiscal Year 2014 Transportation Adjustment	0	0	0	(560,000)	(560,000)
Total Foundation	<u>\$8,800,000</u>	<u>\$9,145,000</u>	<u>\$9,833,000</u>	<u>\$8,624,000</u>	<u>(\$1,209,000)</u>
Casino Revenue	0	26,000	65,000	63,000	(2,000)
Department of Disabilities	0	0	100,000	100,000	0
Total Unrestricted	<u>\$8,800,000</u>	<u>\$9,171,000</u>	<u>\$9,998,000</u>	<u>\$8,787,000</u>	<u>(\$1,211,000)</u>

Restricted Grants-in-Aid

In previous fiscal years, restricted grants distributed as part of the Foundation program such as Poverty Based Assistance and Career Tech funding were reflected in this account. For fiscal year 2015, a total of \$300,000 of restricted grants-in-aid is forecasted. The School District anticipates receiving \$292,000 related to Economic Disadvantaged funding, and \$8,000 related to Career Technologies funding is forecasted.

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Restricted Federal Grants-in-Aid

In 2010, Congress passed, and the President signed, legislation that provides \$10 billion in resources to assist local school districts in creating or saving education jobs during fiscal years 2011 and 2012. The Education Jobs grant may be used only for compensation and benefits and other expenses, such as support services, necessary to retain existing employees, to recall or rehire former employees, and to hire new employees, in order to provide early childhood, elementary, or secondary educational and related services. These funds had limited restrictions on their use. The Bellaire Local School District received \$255,000 and \$244,000 in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 respectively. The School District received the final funding of \$16,000 from the Department of Education during fiscal year 2013. The School District chose to use these funds for salaries and benefits for teachers. The Education Jobs grant has not been reauthorized by the Federal government.

Property Tax Allocation

Since 1971, the State has reimbursed local governments for lost tax revenue related to State mandated rollback and homestead exemptions. House Bill 59, signed in 2013, effected these reductions. The new law indicates that the ten percent and the two and one-half percent rollbacks will no longer apply to new levies that are enacted after August 31, 2013. In addition, House Bill 59 has adjusted the Homestead Exemption, and it will now be a means tested provision only available to those otherwise eligible taxpayers with household incomes that do not exceed \$30,000. These changes reduce reimbursements from the State and increase real property tax revenue.

From 2005 to 2011, State law phased out taxes levied by school districts on business personal property. The State's original intent was to compensate school districts for resulting tax losses in full until fiscal year 2013, when payments themselves were to begin to be phased out.

House Bill 153, signed in June 2011, accelerated the phase out during the fiscal year 2012-2013 biennium and to pay reimbursements after the biennium at the reduced level paid at the end of fiscal year 2013. The new phase out is scaled according to a school district's reliance on those reimbursements as a percentage of the school district's total budget.

In 2012, House Bill 508 went into effect. It provides technical changes to the formula used to calculate fixed rate losses pertaining to business personal property tax expense levies.

Property tax allocation revenues are forecasted to be \$348,000 for fiscal year 2015.

All Other Revenues

All other revenues consist of the following:

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Revenue Sources	Actual Fiscal Year 2012	Actual Fiscal Year 2013	Actual Fiscal Year 2014	Forecasted Fiscal Year 2015	Variance
Open Enrollment Tuition	\$611,000	\$608,000	\$534,000	\$532,000	(\$2,000)
Other Tuition	166,000	198,000	192,000	202,000	10,000
Extracurricular Transportation	7,000	1,000	8,000	8,000	0
Interest	6,000	9,000	12,000	17,000	5,000
Rentals	6,000	9,000	9,000	26,000	17,000
Student Class Fees	15,000	17,000	13,000	15,000	2,000
Fingerprint Fees	13,000	5,000	0	0	0
MSP Reimbursements	49,000	43,000	65,000	52,000	(13,000)
E-Rate	72,000	58,000	42,000	44,000	2,000
Other	85,000	21,000	45,000	37,000	(8,000)
Totals	<u>\$1,030,000</u>	<u>\$969,000</u>	<u>\$920,000</u>	<u>\$933,000</u>	<u>\$13,000</u>

All other revenues include tuition, extracurricular transportation, interest, rental income, student class fees, fingerprint fees, Medicaid (MSP) reimbursements, E-Rate and other revenue.

Open enrollment tuition revenue is expected to decrease by \$2,000 based on current enrollment, and the most recent data provided by the State Department of Education.

Other tuition is forecasted to increase \$10,000 primarily due to increases in charges for special education tuition from the prior fiscal year.

Extracurricular transportation is expected to remain consistent with fiscal year 2014.

Interest is based on historical investment practices, anticipated interest rates and cash balances during the forecast period. The School District pools cash from all funds for investment purposes. Investments are restricted by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and are valued at cost. Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings with the greatest allocation being to the general fund. While interest rates are expected to hover around current rates, interest revenue is expected to increase proportionately with cash balances, which is an increase of \$5,000 from the prior year.

Rental revenue is anticipated to increase \$17,000. The increase is due primarily to charges for preschool students that attend the Bellaire Local School District preschool program from three school districts, Martins Ferry City School District, Shadyside Local School District, and Bridgeport Exempted Village School District.

Student class fees are forecasted to increase \$2,000 from fiscal year 2014.

The School District is expecting to receive \$52,000 in reimbursements from the Medicaid Schools Program (MSP) during fiscal year 2015 for students currently being served under the Federal program guidelines.

The School District is forecasting a slight increase in E-RATE funding in the amount of \$2,000.

Other revenues are forecasted to decrease \$8,000 from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015.

Bellaire Local School District
Belmont County
Summary of Significant Assumptions and Accounting Policies
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

Other Financing Sources

Solvency Assistance Advance – During fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012 the School District received Solvency Assistance Fund Advances in the amount of \$3,667,000, \$1,273,000, and \$1,775,000 respectively from the State. The solvency assistance fund advances money to school districts that are in fiscal emergency or that meet one or more of the nine reasons identified in Section 3301-92-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The advances are repaid over two years from State foundation revenues and are interest free.

Advances In – The School District does not anticipate any advances in during fiscal year 2015.

Note 7 - Significant Assumptions for Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

Personal Services

Personal services expenditures represent the salaries and wages paid to certified employees, classified and administrative staff, substitutes, tutors and board members. In addition to regular salaries, it includes payment for supplemental contracts and severance pay. All employees receive their compensation on a bi-weekly basis. Administrative salaries are set by administrative contractual agreements. Staffing levels for the last three fiscal years and the forecast period have remained relatively consistent.

The following is a comparison of salaries and wages for fiscal year 2012, 2013, and 2014 and the forecast period.

	Actual Fiscal Year 2012	Actual Fiscal Year 2013	Actual Fiscal Year 2014	Forecast Fiscal Year 2015	Variance Increase (Decrease)
Certified Salaries	\$3,797,000	\$3,411,000	\$3,438,000	\$3,264,000	(\$174,000)
Classified Salaries	1,402,000	1,149,000	1,243,000	1,223,000	(20,000)
Substitute Salaries	208,000	242,000	242,000	250,000	8,000
Severance	471,000	212,000	198,000	180,000	(18,000)
Other Salaries and Wages	18,000	14,000	16,000	15,000	(1,000)
Totals	<u>\$5,896,000</u>	<u>\$5,028,000</u>	<u>\$5,137,000</u>	<u>\$4,932,000</u>	<u>(\$205,000)</u>

On August 30, 2012, the Board of Education approved a labor agreement with the Bellaire Education Association that represents the certified teaching staff of the School District. The agreement was effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014. As of the date of the forecast, no agreement has been reached between the School District and the Bellaire Education Association. Due to the fact that no labor agreement has been reached, the forecast includes no increases on base salaries or step or column increases (for experience or increased education). The likelihood of base increases, step, or column increases is unknown, and the realization of the forecast is particularly sensitive to any increase in the base salaries. An increase of one percent in the base salaries (excluding step or column increases) in 2015 would increase total expenditures for salaries by approximately \$33,000. On December 9, 2013, the Board of Education approved a labor agreement with the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, which represents the classified staff of the School District. The agreement is effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016.

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The forecasted salaries are based on current staffing and pay scales provided in the respective labor agreements, referenced above, which do not reflect increases to the base salary or step increases for fiscal year 2015. The forecast reflects a decrease in salaries primarily due to certified staff retirements with staff being replaced at lower rates as well as with staff through the retire/rehire policy.

The actual fiscal year 2014 certified staff salaries also included an increase in the General Fund for a one-time adjustment for Federal funds salaries of approximately \$35,000.

The School District offers severance pay upon retirement to its certified and classified employees who are eligible to retire under the criteria set by STRS or SERS. Severance paid to certified employees hired prior to July 1, 2012 is equal to thirty-five percent of their unused sick leave not to exceed a total of 94.5 days paid. As part of the most recent negotiated agreement, all certified employees hired after July 1, 2012 will receive severance pay that is equal to twenty-five percent of their total sick leave not to exceed 67.5 days paid. Classified employees shall receive severance pay at his or her daily rate of pay for thirty-five percent (35 percent) of the employee's accumulated sick leave at the time of retirement. Severance is paid in one lump sum after the employee provides verification of retirement from STRS/SERS. Severance payments are forecasted in the amount of \$180,000 for fiscal year 2015.

Employees' Retirement/Insurance Benefits

Employees' retirement and insurance benefits include employer contributions to the State pension systems, health care, medicare, workers compensation, and other benefits arising from the negotiated agreements.

The following is a comparison of employees' retirement and benefits for fiscal years 2012, 2013, 2014, and the forecast period:

	Actual Fiscal Year 2012	Actual Fiscal Year 2013	Actual Fiscal Year 2014	Forecast Fiscal Year 2015	Variance Increase (Decrease)
Employer's Retirement	\$1,063,000	\$1,031,000	\$957,000	\$1,014,000	\$57,000
Health Care/Life Insurance	2,100,000	1,441,000	1,614,000	1,696,000	82,000
Workers' Compensation	25,000	22,000	27,000	29,000	2,000
Medicare	56,000	56,000	65,000	57,000	(8,000)
Unemployment	27,000	8,000	1,000	1,000	0
Totals	<u>\$3,271,000</u>	<u>\$2,558,000</u>	<u>\$2,664,000</u>	<u>\$2,797,000</u>	<u>\$133,000</u>

Employer's retirement costs are based on the employers' contribution rate of 14 percent of gross wages for both the STRS and SERS retirement systems and portions of the employees' contribution paid by the Board of Education. The School District also pays 7 percent of the employees' retirement (partial pick up) for teaching employees hired prior to July 1, 2012, 10 percent (full pick up) for administrative employees, and 4 percent (partial pick up) of the classified employees' contributions. The most recent labor agreement eliminated partial pick up of retirement contributions for all teaching employees hired after July 1, 2012. The forecasted retirement also includes the SERS surcharge to fund health care benefits for employees earning less than \$20,450. Payments for the employers' share of the retirements are made based upon estimated salary and wages for each fiscal year, which are withheld from the bi-monthly State Foundation payments. The School District remits the employees' contributions to the retirement systems following each payroll.

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In prior fiscal years, SERS has been paid six months in arrears by Ohio school districts. In order to eliminate the arrearage, on March 18, 2010, the SERS board decided to provide school districts two options. Option one was for the school district to pay the six month arrearage by June 30, 2010, to become current. Option two was for SERS to spread the six month arrearage amount over the subsequent six years adding the arrearage to the current payment. Bellaire Local School District chose option two, and as a result, additional payments have been withheld from foundation settlements during the fiscal year to eliminate the School District's arrearage amount. During fiscal year 2015, the School District will have \$28,000 withheld from foundation, leaving \$27,000 in arrearage at June 30, 2015.

In fiscal year 2014, the School District paid \$24,000 to SERS as an adjustment for the salary estimate submitted by the School District for classified wages for fiscal year 2014. This is an increase from the \$18,000 the School District paid to SERS in fiscal year 2014 for the fiscal year 2013 salary estimate. The School District is forecasting an increase in employer's retirement primarily due to the salary estimates submitted to the retirement systems by the School District.

The School District provides medical/surgical, prescription drug, and dental care on a self-insured basis, and provides vision and life benefits through separate insurance carriers. Rates for the self-insured coverage are based on recommended amounts from the School District's third party administrator and adopted by the Board of Education on a yearly basis. Health, prescription drug, and dental rates are effective October 1 each year, with all other insurance rates effective September 1. Effective October 1, 2014, there was a premium increase of approximately 7 percent for the remainder of fiscal year 2015. The total monthly premium for health insurance is \$694.48 for single and \$1,696.00 for family coverage. The Board of Education pays 90 percent and 85 percent of the total premium for classified and certified employees respectively. The Board also pays 100 percent of the monthly premiums of \$62.18 for dental insurance, \$14.58 for vision insurance, and \$8.00 for life insurance.

All funds are charged for the number of employees' participating in the program and the type (single or family) of coverage provided to each employee. An increase is forecasted for insurance benefits due to a seven percent increase in healthcare premium. The increase in premiums is offset by a reduction of three employees no longer receiving health insurance through the School District as part of the opt-out incentive.

Workers' compensation is based on the School District's assigned rate and the amount of wages paid in a calendar year and is estimated to increase in fiscal year 2015. Premiums are paid in the following calendar year. The School District may choose to pay the entire premium in May or 45 percent in May and 55 percent in August. The School District makes one payment.

Medicare is based on a percentage of wages and is estimated to decrease in fiscal year 2015, due to Medicare costs for employees typically paid from Federal funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 2014, which is not anticipated in fiscal year 2015.

For fiscal year 2015, unemployment is forecasted to remain consistent from the prior fiscal year, due to the majority of those formerly receiving unemployment compensation in prior years either being recalled to work in the School District or finding employment elsewhere.

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Purchased Services

Presented as follows are the purchased service expenditures for the past three fiscal years and the forecast period:

	Actual Fiscal Year 2012	Actual Fiscal Year 2013	Actual Fiscal Year 2014	Forecast Fiscal Year 2015	Variance Increase (Decrease)
Professional and Technical Services	\$29,000	\$53,000	\$83,000	\$62,000	(\$21,000)
Property Services	92,000	92,000	88,000	102,000	14,000
Travel and Meeting Expenses	7,000	11,000	8,000	6,000	(2,000)
Communication Costs	48,000	72,000	91,000	93,000	2,000
Utility Services	262,000	271,000	305,000	333,000	28,000
Tuition and Other Similar Payments	1,735,000	1,827,000	2,073,000	2,132,000	59,000
Totals	\$2,173,000	\$2,326,000	\$2,648,000	\$2,728,000	\$80,000

The total increase in purchased services is largely due to the increases in utility services, and tuition and other similar payments. The increase in utility services is the result of the increased cost of utilities. The increase in tuition and other similar payments is due primarily to increases in technology personnel services costs as part of the School District's agreement with the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center.

Supplies and Materials

Presented as follows are the supplies and materials expenditures for the past three fiscal years and the forecast period:

	Actual Fiscal Year 2012	Actual Fiscal Year 2013	Actual Fiscal Year 2014	Forecast Fiscal Year 2015	Variance Increase (Decrease)
General Supplies, Textbooks, Library Books and Periodicals	\$145,000	\$125,000	\$132,000	\$153,000	\$21,000
Operations, Bus Supplies and Repairs	216,000	247,000	256,000	270,000	14,000
Janitorial Supplies	30,000	37,000	60,000	45,000	(15,000)
Totals	\$391,000	\$409,000	\$448,000	\$468,000	\$20,000

The increase in operations, bus supplies and repairs is the result of increasing costs of supplies and materials to maintain the transportation and general operation of the School District. The increase in general supplies, textbooks, library books and periodicals is primarily due to the School District's addition of a welding program. Due to changes in State law, the School District is no longer subject to mandatory set-aside funding for textbooks and educational supplies.

Capital Outlay

The costs of property, plant and equipment acquired or constructed for general governmental services are recorded as expenditures. During fiscal year 2015, the School District anticipates \$290,000 in capital outlay expenditures related to the purchase of two new buses, and a vehicle to address the School District's aging fleet of buses and vehicles, as well as technology infrastructure and equipment primarily related to required State testing procedures.

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Debt Service

The School District participated in the State Solvency Assistance program in fiscal years 2011 and 2012. Based on program guidelines, the program allows for advances against the state foundation revenue to be provided at a zero percent rate to be repaid through deductions from the School District's state foundation receipts. Each advance is repaid in equal installments over the two subsequent fiscal years. These solvency advances were fully repaid in fiscal year 2014. The following table summarizes the School District's participation in the State Solvency Assistance program.

Fiscal Year	State Solvency Advance		
	Received/Forecasted During Fiscal Year	Repaid/Forecasted During Fiscal Year	Advance Outstanding as of Fiscal Year End
2011	\$1,273,000	\$1,834,000	\$3,106,000
2012	1,775,000	2,470,000	2,411,000
2013	0	1,524,000	887,000
2014	0	887,000	0

Other Objects

Other object expenditures consist of dues, fees, and liability insurance. Other object expenditures are forecasted in the amount of \$138,000, which reflects a \$4,000 increase over the prior fiscal year. The increase results from increased costs in auditor and treasurer fees.

Transfers and Advances Out

For fiscal year 2015, \$100,000 in advances to federal grant funds are expected to cover deficit balances until Federal Funds are requested and received.

Note 8 - Encumbrances

Encumbrances represent purchase authorizations and contracts for goods or services that are pending vendor performance and those purchase commitments which have been performed, invoiced, and are awaiting payment. Encumbrances on a budget basis of accounting are treated as the equivalent of an expenditure at the time authorization is made in order to maintain compliance with spending restrictions established by Ohio law. For presentation in the forecast, outstanding encumbrances are presented as a reduction of the general fund cash balance. Encumbrances for purchased services, supplies and materials, capital outlay and other objects for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, are estimated to be \$150,000.

Note 9 - Restrictions of Fund Balance

The School District is required by State statute to annually set aside in the general fund three percent of certain revenues for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by year-end or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at year-end and carried forward to be used for the same purposes in future years.

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Under Sections 3315.17(B)(2) and 3315.18(D)(1), Revised Code, a Board of Education in fiscal emergency may deposit less than the required set aside or make no deposit into the capital improvement set aside. School District continues to collect Permanent Improvement and Classroom Facilities Maintenance levies that will offset the full fiscal year 2015 set aside requirement; therefore the School District will not waive the set-aside requirement, and is not forecasting an amount to be set aside at June 30, 2015.

On October 13, 2014 the Board of Education, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(A)(1), approved the establishment of a Reserve Balance Account within the General Fund representing “one month of actual cash operating reserves.” For fiscal year 2015, \$685,000 is projected to be set aside for the Budget Stabilization Reserve Balance Account. Under the authority of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.13(B), the Board of Education also approved the establishment of a special revenue fund to accumulate resources for the payment of the School District’s liabilities associated with staff retirements. For fiscal year 2015, this fund is forecasted to be funded in the amount of \$200,000, and the termination benefits special revenue fund is included with the general fund for forecasting purposes. As of the date of this forecast, the special revenue fund to account for staff retirement liabilities has not yet been established.

Note 10 - Levies

The School District has placed several levies on the ballot in the last 10 years. The type of levy, millage amount, term and election results are as follows:

Date	Type	Amount	Term	Results
April 2, 2006	Permanent Improvement (Renewal)	3.00 mills	5 Years	Passed
May 4, 2010	Emergency	1,396,200	5 Years	Failed
November 2, 2010	Emergency	1,396,200	5 Years	Failed
May 3, 2011	Income Tax	1%	5 Years	Failed
November 8, 2011	Permanent Improvement (Renewal)	3.00 mills	5 Years	Passed
November 8, 2011	Income Tax	1%	5 Years	Failed
November 6, 2012	Emergency	8.72 mills	5 Years	Failed
May 7, 2013	Emergency	5.9 mills	5 Years	Failed
November 5, 2013	Emergency	5.9 mills	5 Years	Failed
May 6, 2014	Emergency	5.9 mills	5 Years	Failed

Note 11 - Pending Litigation

The School District is not currently party to any pending litigation.

Note 12 - Employee Benefits Self-Insurance Fund

The School District provides medical/surgical, prescriptions, and dental benefits through two separate self-insurance programs. The School District maintains an internal service fund to account for and finance its uninsured risks of loss in this program. A third party administrator reviews all claims which are then paid by the School District. The School District pays a monthly premium for each employee into the internal service fund. The premium is paid by the fund that pays the salary for the employee and

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differs for single and family benefits. Monthly premiums are recommended by the third party administrator and approved by the Board of Education. The School District has shared risk pool coverage with Jefferson Health Plan Self-Insurance Plan, which covers individual claims in excess of \$50,000 up to \$500,000 per employee per year for medical claims. The School District also has a stop loss coverage insurance policy through Jefferson Health Plan Self-Insurance Plan which covers individual claims in excess of \$500,000 per employee per year for medical claims. For fiscal year 2015, the School District anticipates premiums and stop loss reimbursements to be sufficient to cover the claims and administrative costs on a cash basis.

Note 13 - Financial Planning and Supervision Commission

On December 31, 2009, the School District was declared to be in a state of “Fiscal Emergency” by the Auditor of State. Legislation effective September 1996, permitted this declaration due to the School District’s declining financial condition. In accordance with the law, a five-member Financial Planning and Supervision Commission have been established to oversee the financial affairs of the School District. The Commission is comprised of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Director of Budget and Management or their designees, and three appointed members. The appointments are made by the Governor of the State of Ohio, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Belmont County Auditor. The Commission’s primary charge is to develop, adopt and implement a financial recovery plan. Once the plan has been adopted, the Board of Education’s discretion is limited in that all financial activity of the School District must in accordance with the plan.

The Commission approved the Bellaire Local School District’s initial financial recovery plan on September 29, 2010. Revised recovery plans have been submitted and approved annually, with the most recent revision being approved on October 6, 2014 for fiscal year 2015.

Note 14 - Information Related to Periods Beyond the Forecast Period

Management is required to annually prepare and file a five-year financial plan with the Ohio Department of Education. Management believes that the following information, although it does not constitute a financial forecast, is necessary in order for users to make a meaningful analysis of the forecast results. The plan filed with the Ohio Department of Education in October of 2014 covered fiscal years 2015 through 2019 and assumes the continued operation of the School District with fairly consistent revenues. The most recently submitted forecast reflects a positive cash balance in fiscal years 2015 through fiscal year 2019. An updated five-year financial plan is required to be filed with the Ohio Department of Education by the end of May 2015 and will cover fiscal years 2015 through 2019.

The information in this note is less reliable than the information presented in the financial forecast, and accordingly, is presented for analysis purposes only. Furthermore, there can be no assurances that the events and circumstances described in this note will occur.

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

BELLAIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BELMONT COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
MARCH 31, 2015**