

PDY Schools Financial Reduction Plan Leads to Big Savings with Retire/Rehire (5/16/13)

Finding cost savings and reductions to address serious financial challenges continues to be a driving force for Pike-Delta-York Superintendent Jay LeFevre and the Board of Education, with a clear focus on providing a first-rate education. Despite the fact that the district has continually reduced staff for the past several years, deficit spending has not been curtailed and additional revenue will be needed to allow the school district to continue effectively. The Board has been discussing levy options to generate needed revenue for several months now.

Superintendent LeFevre indicated his target to be the “district of choice” in northwest Ohio, while taking on this major fiscal obstacle. Among several strategies and plans LeFevre and the Board have put into place, the biggest savings comes from an innovative plan to effectively reduce the salaries of six employees by an average of over \$25,000. While technically a retire/rehire plan, this plan is effectively a huge savings for the financially troubled district.

Five teachers have signed up, all of whom gave up continuing contract status and will now be placed on limited contracts of one to five years, resulting in \$25,000 in savings for each year left on their new limited contracts. None of these teachers was slated for retirement, and all are highly desired teachers who would have remained in their positions at regular pay had this option not been offered. In addition, high school principal Marty Friess has accepted a \$25,000 reduction in his last salary. Mr. Friess, who also was not slated to retire and whose contract continued through next year, will add another \$25,000 to the district’s savings by his participation in this reduction plan. This first year alone (2013-14) PDY Local Schools will see a reduction in expenditures for salaries of over \$150,000, which equates to a average reduction of 40% for these six positions.

Many other strategies are being implemented and explored in the effort to balance fiscal responsibility with a growth model that both retains and attracts students and families to the Pike-Delta-York School Local School District and community.

In conclusion, LeFevre stated, “Reducing costs everywhere we can without sacrificing quality, and investing in our future is what I believe this community wants for its schools. I want to see PDY thrive rather than simply try to survive.”