

General Assembly  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Basic Education Funding Commission

Basic Education Funding Formula Hearing

John M. Kurelja Ed. D, Superintendent

Warrior Run School District

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# How Can Warrior Run Be Described?

- Small rural district in central Pennsylvania comprising 113 square miles.
- We currently have 1535 students, 129 teachers, and 13 administrators.
- We have four school buildings that are aging. Two elementary schools Turbotville (1937) and Watsontown (1962) schools, a middle school (1958), and a high school (1968).
- We have very little industry with farmland and residential homes dominating our landscape.
- Our schools are the center of our communities.
- Received the Governor's Excellence Grant Award in 2014

# Enrollment and Staffing Analysis

## Overall Student Enrollment

- 05/06- 1802
- 14/15- 1535
- Down 14.8% - 267 students

## Professional Staffing

- 05/06 – 145
- 14/15 – 129
- Down 11.0% - 16 staff members

## Administrative Staffing

- 05/06- 15
- 14/15- 13
- Down 13.3%- 2 staff members

# Financial Impact on Local Taxpayers

- Our district has raised taxes to the index and applied for exceptions each of the last four years.
  - 11-12: 8.02%
  - 12-13: 5.17%
  - 13-14: 5.69%
  - 14-15: 5.37%
  - Proposed 15-16: 7.31%
- 31.56% over the last 5 years and is unsustainable in the future.
- Our 5 year projection shows our district being \$3,836,788 in debt with no remaining fund balance.

# County-Wide Reassessments

- Our district comprises three counties (this makes us unique in PA):
  - Montour
  - Union
  - Northumberland
- Montour and Union Counties were reassessed in 2006.
- Northumberland County has not been reassessed since 1972.
- This has created disparities within Northumberland County and across the three counties that are extremely troublesome.
- We have pursued reverse appeals and it was determined that sale price was not indicative of market value.
- Mandated county-wide reassessments would be extremely beneficial.

# Consolidation Efforts

- Our district has completed a feasibility study that shows we can save upwards of \$822,000 per year by consolidating our aging neighborhood elementary schools.
- We are moving forward in this direction, but board members are very concerned about the lack of Plan-Con Funding, increased debt service, and overtaxed residents.
- We are going to have to find a way to make this happen in order to survive out into the future.

# Negotiations in Our Area

- Just in CSIU 16 we have 9 contracts that are expired.
- Four districts have filed an intent to strike
- Two districts have already gone out on strike.
- Warrior Run's collective bargaining agreement is set to expire in June and we are concerned about being able to reach a settlement in a timely fashion.
- Our last contract was not settled for two years and led to protracted negotiations including fact finding and "working to rule."
- These negotiations took a heavy toll on our overall school community.

# Cyber Charter School Impact

## Cyber charter school costs

- 11-12: \$371,988
- 12-13: \$403,522
- 13-14: \$481,384
- 14-15: \$500,000 projected
- How much we pay
  - \$9,085.42 for regular education students
  - \$17,535.11 special education
- We have our own cyber program that we offer that costs less than \$4,000 per student.
- This issue is indicative of the majority of districts in our area.
- Cyber school costs and regular education costs for cyber programming should be more congruent.