

Sherrard Community Unit School District 200

*Calendar Year 2016  
State of the District Report*



Presented to the Board of Education  
by Superintendent Alan Boucher

## Things to Note for 2016

- Appointed four new Board members – Rhys Fullerlove, Kim DeBlock, Dan Helm, Troy Wolford
- Hired a new HS principal – Tim Wernentin
- Hired a new JH principal – Rick Basala
- Hired a new JH/SH Athletic Director – Mike Applegate
- Added a fourth counselor to the staff
- Added a new teacher to the Ag-Industrial Arts program
- Reverted back to an 8 period day at the HS (i.e., no more block)
- The weighting system for summative and formative assessments was standardized for the HS core subjects
- The JH 2016 PARCC scores had the area's 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage of students Meeting and Exceeding
- All 6 of the HS students who took the AP Literature and Composition test passed. Additionally, 10 of the 16 students who took the AP Language Arts test passed. Two students received a perfect score.
- A Latin System is now being used for recognizing high achieving graduates
- A K-6 math committee was formed to align math curriculum and establish teacher tools
- Go Guardian software was purchased and implemented at the 6-12 grade levels. The software allows the district to monitor and control the computer activities of the students.
- The JH/SH drug testing protocol was expanded from hair testing to also include saliva testing
- Purchased new welding equipment and a new plasma cutter for the industrial arts program
- Completed the Heating/Air Conditioning/Ventilation projects at SGS and WGS
- Installed fencing around the playground perimeter at WGS
- Installed an ATM in the HS commons
- Worked through a major repair issue with the wind turbine
- A Dedication Garden was installed at the HS
- Various concrete projects were completed at three school campuses
- Eight classrooms were moved to accommodate large first grade classes and to provide better learning environments for the students
- Passed the Rock Island sales tax measure at the polls in November
- Resolved a calendar issue with the SEA
- HS teacher Matt Hutchins was chosen to receive the Master Teacher award from the Dispatch/Argus
- Wrestling team grappled its way to an IHSA state appearance and finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the state
- Hunter Spengler won 3<sup>rd</sup> place as an individual at the IHSA state wrestling meet
- Sam Ryner won 4<sup>th</sup> Place as an individual at the IHSA state wrestling meet
- Tyler Rolling qualified for the IHSA state wrestling meet
- Girls Basketball Team fought their way to the IHSA semi-final sectional championship game
- Girls Softball Team fought their way to the IHSA semi-final sectional championship game
- The Competitive Cheerleading Squad qualified to go to the State competition
- Katy Schmitt qualified for the IHSA state golf tournament and finished 5<sup>th</sup>
- Keaton Helm qualified for the IHSA track meet in the 800 meter run
- Sam Ryner qualified for the IHSA track meet in the 400 meter dash
- Caroline Dochterman qualified for the IHSA track meet in the Pole Vault

- Approved the purchase of new band uniforms
- The marching band had much success at competitions
- Implemented a plan to collect on past-due accounts
- The Sherrard Academic Foundation inducted four new members into the Hall of Fame
- The staff participated in a trivia event to raise money for the Sherrard Academic Foundation
- The Sherrard Academic Foundation provided \$11,000 in grants to classroom teachers
- Over 80 veterans attended two Veteran’s Day appreciation events at MV and the HS
- A teacher survey for professional development was administered. The data was used by the administrators when professional development activities were chosen.
- Teachers were given a second year of training in the use of Write Tools, a K-12 writing program
- Student growth was added to the teacher evaluation tool
- The Preschool for All Program at WGS was given the highest rating by state auditors – the Gold Circle of Quality
- The Federal Government reauthorized Title One

#### Status on Finance

- Our Financial Profile Rating is 3.9 on a 4-point scale garnering ISBE’s highest rating of “Recognition.” (see attachment 1)
- We have a strong cash reserve (see attachment 6)
- We have quite a bit of debt, but our payments are one million dollars a year, so we are making quick progress (see attachment 2)
- The overall 2016-2017 budget is in the black (see attachment 3)
- The Ed Fund is \$58,912 in the red
- The O & M Fund is \$326,024 in the red
- Our expenditures should be at the 50% mark at this time of year. We are currently at 54.4% Many expenses are front loaded at the beginning of the school year (e.g., purchasing buses, once-a-year payment on debt). As the year progresses and the spending slows down, we should catch up and actually underspend the budget.

#### Areas for Needed Improvement

1. The O & M Fund is a concern because the overage is significant and the cash reserve is small. I recommend we transfer some of the expenses to the Tort Fund and the sales tax fund. I don’t think we can pull away any revenue from the Ed Fund because it is already in the red.
2. I recommend that we immediately begin to develop a risk management plan. The plan will justify the Tort expenses. Courts want to see a Risk Management Plan when plaintiffs complain about government organizations using Tort money.

#### Status on Academics

- Konnie Fry is our PreK-6 Curriculum Director. Tim Wernentin is our 7-12 Curriculum Director.
- We currently test our students K-12 with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This test is given at the beginning of the year and at the end of the year. Some students are given the test in the middle of the school year.

- The students in the elementary and junior high take the state test called PARCC
- Student achievement is very similar to the State averages (see attachment 5)
- Beginning this year, the HS juniors will be taking the SAT
- Our 1:1 computer program makes traditional hardback textbooks obsolete. The teachers now pull from a variety of sources to support the Illinois State Learning Standards.
- The Illinois State Learning Standards are in line with the Common Core Standards. The Common Core Standards are for the areas of English-Language Arts and mathematics. The standards are based on the things expected internationally.
- We are in the second year of the 1:1 computer initiative. The teachers and students continue to learn about how to utilize technology as a primary learning tool.

#### Areas for Needed Improvement

1. Our teachers need more assistance with curriculum materials. We have started a math committee to address this problem and we have adopted the Write Tools curriculum for writing, but more work needs to be done.
2. We need to continue learning about how to use the data we collect from MAP. There is a lot of useful information contained in the data that can help inform our instructional decisions.
3. We have to find more ways to reach the HS students who aren't motivated to learn. They are falling through the cracks and we must not accept that.
4. While the teachers and students have made tremendous progress with the 1:1 computer program, there is a long way to go. Everyone needs to show initiative to learn and the district needs to do its part in supporting the teachers and students.

#### Status on Students

- The student enrollment of 1,479 continues to decline (see attachment 4).
- The percentage of students who graduate in four years is 90% (state average 86%). That percentage goes up to 94% in five years (state average 88%).
- The percentage of our graduating seniors who enroll in college within 16 months: 76% (state 73%)
- Ninety-four HS students took college courses last year.
- Fifty-three HS students took one or more AP courses last year.
- The poverty rate is 29% and is similar to the 28% from five years ago.
- The student body is 89.8% white, 1.2% black, 3.3% bi-racial and 4.8% Hispanic.
- The percentage of students identified with a disability is 13.4% which is slightly below the state average of 14%.
- Ninety-six percent of the students attend school on any given day which is slightly higher than the 94% state average. Two percent of the students are chronically truant.
- There are currently no students who are English Language Learners (ESL). The state average is 11%.
- From my perspective of being in education for over 30 years, I believe there are more students now with health issues such as diabetes and food allergies. There also seems to be more children with severe behavior disorders. I also observe there is much less respect for the teachers and administrators from students and their parents.

#### Areas for Needed Improvement

1. I believe we need to continue to work on ways to change the public perception about our district. The negative perception of some does not reflect realities in the district. Sherrard is one of the best districts in the area and is an excellent choice for parents choosing a district for their children.
2. Student behavior can be a distraction and a source of frustration for the students and staff. We need to continue providing staff development in the area of behavior management and look for ways to work together on this important topic.

#### Status on Staffing

- We have many hard-working and dedicated staff members who go above and beyond on a daily basis. They are not only dedicated to their job responsibilities, they are loyal to the Sherrard community and specifically choose to work here.
- We have 107 teachers with 106 being white and 77.5% being female. Forty-five percent of the teachers have a master's degree. Five years ago, 58% of the teachers had a master's degree. The decline is most likely due to retirements.
- The district's student-to-teacher ratio is 16:1 whereas the state's ratio is 19:1.
- Regarding teacher retention, 77.6% of the teachers return each year whereas the state average is 85.8%
- There are few quality applicants for our hard-to-fill certified positions.
- There are few applicants for all of the non-certified positions.
- We have had an unfilled special education teaching vacancy since the beginning of the school year.
- Next year is the final year of a 3-year contract with the SEA. Negotiations will probably begin at start of 2018.

#### Areas for Needed Improvement

1. We have begun to look into having an on-campus master's degree program for our staff. We need to continue with those efforts.
2. We cannot compete with the QCA salary-wise, so we will have to look for ways to improve the working conditions of teachers so they don't want to leave the district – even if they could make higher pay.

#### Status on Transportation

- The transportation department continues to operate in the black.
- Despite a strong transportation budget, the state struggles to make timely transportation payments. We did not receive all of our FY 16 revenue until December of this school year (FY 17).
- Our new assistant mechanic is outstanding.
- We continue to find new drivers, but we also continue to lose drivers through normal attrition, so it is difficult to get ahead.
- Three drivers were recently certified and two more are close to getting certification. There are several more who are at the beginning of the process.
- Our bus facilities and our bus fleet are in good shape. This is an area of strength.

### Areas of Needed Improvement

1. Our current practice of replacing 2 buses a year must continue if possible. I recommend that one of the buses be a mini-bus this next year to take some pressure off finding drivers for evening activities.
2. Transporting students for academic purposes should be done with a Suburban rather than a car. For the past two years, we have purchased a new staff car; I recommend that we purchase a Suburban instead of a new staff car next year.
3. Many driver applicants have trouble getting the money for their CDL license. I recommend that the district pay the \$50 fee when it becomes known that it's a problem.
4. The box truck is used by the band and it is wearing out. I recommend that we purchase a new trailer using the same fund as number 2 above.

### Status on Facilities

- The district is currently operating with a deficit in the building fund. There is about \$680,000 in cash reserves, and the deficit for this year is \$326,024. The sales tax revenue and the additional Tort money will help the situation.
- Our facilities continue to be among the best in the area.
- While we do have some custodians who work very hard, the overall cleanliness of the buildings could be better. More attention needs to be given to training, deep cleaning and periodic cleaning (e.g., washing windows).
- The landscaping at all the buildings needs to be addressed. We have overgrown plants, a lack of plants and a general scene of ugliness at each building.
- The district architects are currently working on vestibules at SGS and MV as well as a new roof for MV. They are also looking at what it would take to put a timeout room at the JH.

### Areas of Needed Improvement

1. There numerous building projects I would like to recommend. Here is a brief description of each  
More staff parking behind the HS                      More parking in front of the HS  
A new wood floor for the HS gym                      A new wrestling room  
New light racks for the football/soccer field      New landscaping at each building
2. A ten-year facility plan needs to be developed to ensure all buildings are up-to-date and well-maintained.

### Summary

Sherrard School District has a long tradition of excellence demonstrated through progressive endeavors, excellent facilities, strong financial management and a wide array of learning opportunities. There is a spirit of optimism among the stakeholders and there are many initiatives under way that will propel the district to continued excellence.

I encourage the district to manage progress using a comprehensive strategic planning tool. This process will allow the district to identify needs, develop effective plans, maximize teamwork and wisely allocate resources. It's a good day in the Sherrard School District. It's time to thrive!

Attachment 1

## Financial Profile Score

The Illinois State Board of Education has developed the School District Financial Profile to help monitor the finances of school districts and identify which are moving toward financial difficulty. Five indicators are individually scored and weighted in order to arrive at a Total Profile Score. The results are slotted into a category of a four, three, two or one with four being the highest and best category possible.

### Indicators

1. Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio – The result of dividing the ending fund balances by the revenues for the Ed, O&M, Transportation and Working Cash funds.
2. Expenditure to Revenue Ratio – Computed by dividing total expenditures for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds plus Working Cash.
3. Days Cash on Hand – The number of days a district could meet operating expenditures provided no additional revenues were received.
4. Percent of Short-Term Borrowing Ability Remaining – The sum of unpaid Tax Anticipation Warrants divided by 85% of the EAV multiplied by the tax rates for the Ed, O&M and Transportation funds.
5. Percent of Long-Term Debt margin Remaining – The District's EAV multiplied by its maximum general obligation debt limitation, reduced by any outstanding long-term debt.

### Financial Profile Designation

Financial Recognition (highest rating)	3.54 – 4.0
Financial Review	3.08 – 3.53
Financial Early Warning	2.62 – 3.07
Financial Watch (lowest rating)	1.00 – 2.61

#### State Averages

2011	3.60
2012	3.64
2013	3.54
2014	3.52
2015	3.54

#### Local Scores

Orion	3.45
Rockridge	3.55
Mercer County	3.90
Monmouth	3.90
Riverdale	3.55
Sherrard	3.90

## Debt Overview

### Bonds

- In recent years, we have had three bonds. Two of them are still active.
- The bond referred to as the 2004 Series Bond was paid off in March of 2014.
- We will pay off the bond referred to as the 1999 Capital Appreciation Bond in December of 2018. After the December, 2015 payment, we will have 3 more annual payments of \$855,000. The interest rate is 5.39 percent. The Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon has the loan.
- The final and largest bond is referred to as the 2013 Series Bond. We are paying interest-only payments right now. This annual interest-only payment is \$195,460. In 2019, we will start paying principal because the 1999 Capital Appreciation Bond will be paid-off. The new principal/interest payment will be \$1,048,787.50 and will be paid-off in December, 2024. The original loan amount was \$5,375,000. With interest that ranges from 3 to 4 percent, we will end up paying \$7,047,499. Heartland Bank and Trust Company has the loan.
- The amount we levy for the bonds varies each year because it is dependent on the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of our district's property. It hovers in the low 70 cent range and will get smaller as the EAV goes up. That means the owner of a \$100,000 property would pay \$233 annually in property taxes for the retirement of the district's debt.

### Debt Certificates

- The district currently has two debt certificates and both were established in March, 2007.
- Both debt certificates are related to the wind turbine.
- Both debt certificates will be paid off in December, 2016.
- One of the debt certificates had an original amount of \$1,300,000 and has annual payments of \$130,000. The interest rate is 1.45 percent.
- The second debt certificate had an original amount of \$490,608 and is payable quarterly. The payments vary from \$37,041 to \$70,978 and the interest rate is 4 percent.



## District Financial Overview

	Budget Revenue	Budget Expense	Difference	Expenses On Pace?
Ed Fund	11,026,904	11,085,816	-58,912	48.84
O & M Fund	900,176	1,226,200	-326,024	56.36
Transportation Fund	950,021	873,800	76,221	58.42
Bond Fund	1,050,509	1,050,460	49	90.74
IMRF/FICA Fund	564,813	492,500	72,313	48.67
Sales Tax Fund	250,000	75,000	175,000	73.86
Working Cash Fund	75,567	0	75,567	0
Tort Fund	386,409	316,000	70,409	79.84
Health/Life/Safety Fund	79,567	160,000	-80,433	97.20
	15,283,966	15,279,776		54.14

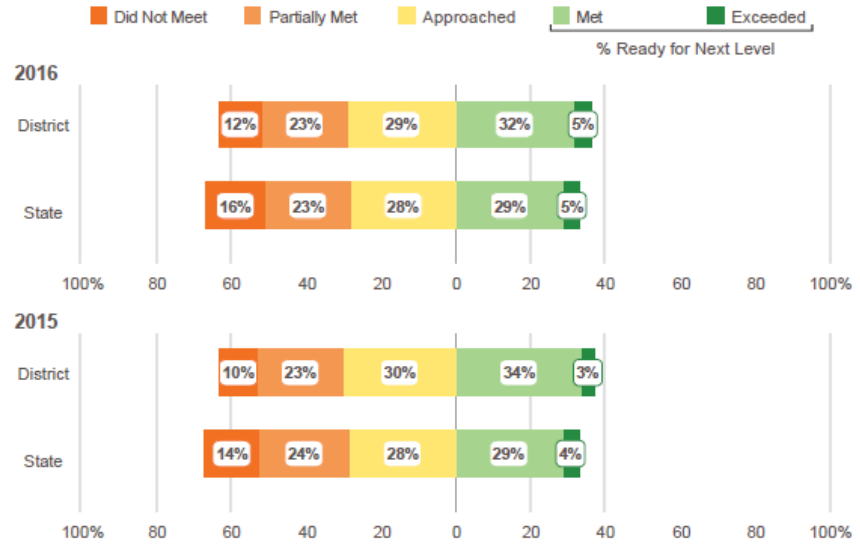
## Sherrard Student Enrollment

Year	Enrolled	Increase/Decrease
1989	1817	
1990	1814	-3
1991	1771	-43
1992	1782	11
1993	1806	24
1994	1835	29
1995	1919	84
1996	1936	17
1997	1989	53
1998	1886	-103
1999	1893	7
2000	1859	-34
2001	1802	-57
2002	1774	-28
2003	1794	20
2004	1765	-29
2005	1733	-32
2006	1770	37
2007	1751	-19
2008	1627	-124
2009	1590	-37
2010	1566	-24
2011	1559	-7
2012	1595	36
2013	1541	-54
2014	1578	37
2015	1520	-58
2016	1469	-51

Winola annexation took place in the fall of 1988.

High enrollment was in the 1997/98 school year. Since then, the enrollment has decreased 520 students. That is an average decrease of 27 students per year. We have lost 301 students since 2006.

# PARCC Achievement



Attachment 6

## Sherrard Financial History

Fund Balances (June 30)

2007	7,432,449	
2008	7,549,148	
2009	5,611,008	Capital outlay expenditure of 2,746,766
2010	5,859,426	
2011	7,425,091	
2012	8,152,993	
2013	8,403,408	
2014	8,987,641	
2015	8,877,680	
2016	8,277,867	

Revenue

	Total	Local	State	Federal
2006	13,556,087	6,630,723	6,391,172	534,192
2007	14,716,903	6,774,027	7,172,450	770,426
2008	14,899,837	7,167,010	7,114,053	618,774
2009	14,999,656	7,014,959	6,062,727	1,921,970
2010	14,991,666	7,243,060	5,968,507	1,780,099
2011	15,930,623	7,453,209	7,277,816	1,199,598
2012	14,799,912	7,675,582	6,378,235	746,095
2013	14,677,827	7,659,686	6,306,729	711,412
2014	14,356,884	7,780,888	5,865,823	710,173
2015	14,447,169	8,224,826	5,481,494	740,849
2016	17,323,677	10,721,085	5,923,775	678,817

Note state revenue for 2016 is \$467,397 less than it was in 2006

Expenditures (salaries, benefits, purchased services, supplies only)

2006	14,815,895	
2007	14,774,487	
2008	14,718,488	
2009	16,898,819	Capital outlay expenditure of 2,746,766
2010	14,725,337	
2011	14,237,169	
2012	14,033,612	
2013	14,452,461	
2014	14,232,617	
2015	16,526,533	Capital outlay expenditure of 2,518,790
2016	17,180,671	Capital outlay expenditure of 1,829,232