



# Beaver Local Schools

*Beaver Local's*



*Opportunity*  
**of a LIFETIME**

**VOTE  
YES!**

**VOTE  
YES!**

**PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU VOTE ON MARCH 6th**



**Beaver Local Schools Construction Project  
It's For the Kids**



## Introduction

### Beaver Local's *Opportunity* OF A LIFETIME

Beaver Local's Future is Now!

Opportunity sometimes comes to a community in dramatic fashion, and our school district faces just such a crossroads when we vote on March 6th.

After much strategic planning and research, we have the chance at long last to replace our aging school buildings---with the State of Ohio paying well over half the bill!

This booklet outlines the plan in detail. Please read it carefully. Whether you have children in the schools or not, as an investor in the project, you have an enormous opportunity at stake.

We have much to be proud of at Beaver Local. This opportunity to provide every student with an up-to-date classroom will enhance education, provide jobs and unite our community.

## A message from our Superintendent

Columbiana County has seen many of its school districts receive funds from the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) to build new schools. The new buildings have allowed the students to receive an education in a state of the art building. Even though bricks and mortar do not educate students, they create the environment to encourage lifelong learning.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, the residents of Beaver Local will have a chance to cast a ballot to determine the direction the district will go in terms of facilities. The direction is really simple, we can have a brand new K-12 campus that will help foster a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational direction in Beaver Local or we can remain in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the outdated buildings we presently utilize.

Our current building configuration is costing the tax payers money in general upkeep, high utility costs, excessive repairs and over-staffing. A new K-12 campus will allow the district to save money by utilizing geothermal heating and cooling, streamlining of student services and general maintenance will be at a minimum with a new facility.

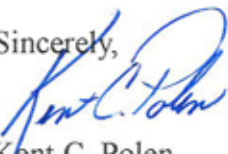
Our staff has done an outstanding job, but despite our efforts to maintain our aged school buildings, we have reached a point where patching and repairing is no longer enough and is not cost effective. We keep a close eye on all of our facilities to determine what is needed now and what might be needed in the near future. Presently all of our buildings are having major issues or will have major issues in the next five years.

At Beaver Local School District, we take pride in the motto "Excellence on the Move!" To our school district that's not a mere slogan--- it's a way of life. Our first stewardship is to provide quality education for all of our students and the excellent rating on the Ohio Report Card shows we're on the right path.

The second part of our stewardship is to provide education in the most cost-effective way possible. We mean it! We currently spend the second lowest per student in Columbiana County but are ranked third in the county academically by the State of Ohio Report Card.

With your help and support we will continue our path of excellence and beyond by providing a state of the art school for our current students and the students of future generations.

Sincerely,



Kent C. Polen

## A message from our Board of Education

On March 6<sup>th</sup> you will be asked to vote on an opportunity of a lifetime for residents of Beaver Local Schools. We are eligible to receive over \$35 million dollars from the State of Ohio to build a brand new K-12 campus.


For years, districts around us have built up-to-date facilities using funds provided by the Ohio School Facilities Commission. Sixty-two percent of the funds to build Beaver Local's new campus would come from the OSFC, while the remaining thirty-eight percent must be raised locally; a bond issue to raise that local share will be on your ballot March 6<sup>th</sup>.

As your local representatives, we unanimously agree that we cannot let this opportunity pass us by. We know, of course, that these are challenging economic times, but the prospect of losing more than \$35 million and not being able to construct adequate school buildings would be catastrophic. The issue is not about consolidation, but it is about the condition and cost of maintaining old obsolete buildings that have outlived their useful lives. The Board of Education believes that spending millions of dollars to maintain buildings that need constant attention is not a wise use of tax dollars, especially if Beaver Local can obtain new buildings through the State program at a deeply discounted price.

Our request today is that you study this opportunity. Please review this booklet carefully because the future of our community and our schools are at stake.

Thank you as always for your support of Beaver Local Schools. Together we are "Excellence on the Move!"

Your Board of Education,



John Cyphert  
Bill Coxall  
Brian McKin  
Thomas C. Wolfe  
Brad Buchheit



Architectural rendering of the type of school we could have.

 *Opportunity*  
**of a LIFETIME**

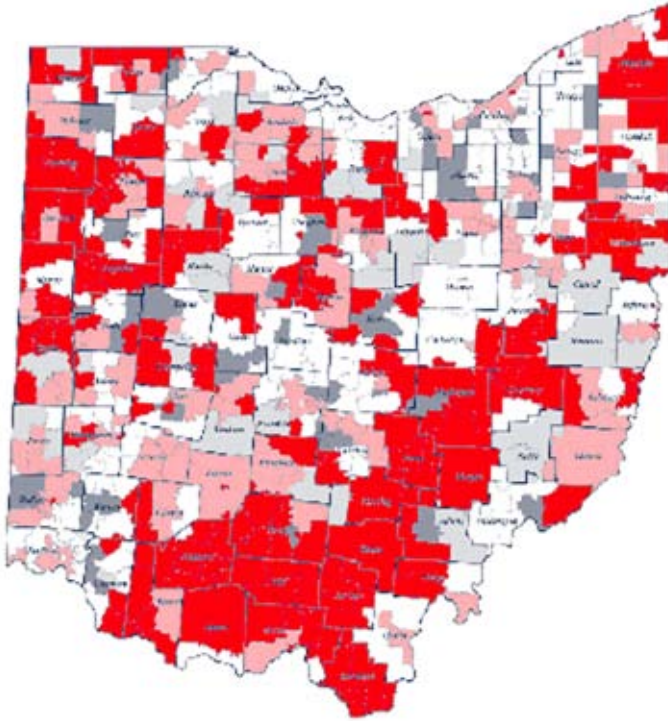
Throughout Ohio many school districts have received State funding for new school buildings and now it's Beaver Local's turn.

The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) has earmarked over \$34.7 million for a new building IF we provide matching dollars by passing a bond issue--just as other communities have.

With the State paying 62% of the bill, this truly is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Will our community get its rightful share or will future generations remember 2012 as the year Beaver Local rejected \$34.7 million for new schools?

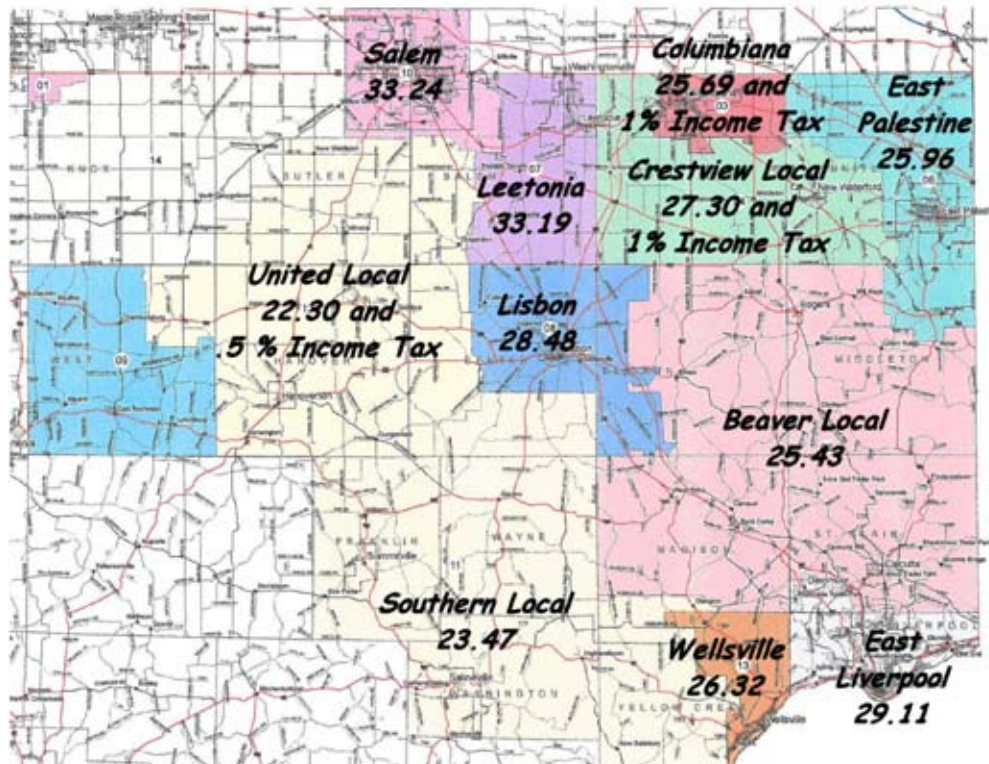
# What Other School Districts Took Advantage of State Assistance?



- 193 districts have completed all necessary construction and renovation work.
- 121 districts have had their master facilities plans fully or partially funded and work is ongoing.
- 45 districts have been offered State funding, but have been unable to raise their required local share. Beaver Local is one of them.
- 37 districts are participating in the Expedited Local Partnership program in anticipation of State funding.

## What a bargain for Beaver Local!!

Current school taxes (effective millage rates) and school income tax percentages.



# Why Should Beaver Local Take Advantage of the OSFC *Opportunity*

as our neighboring communities have already done?

- 👉 Beaver Local students deserve what neighboring districts have
- 👉 Keep the Beaver Local community and schools competitive
- 👉 Low construction costs
- 👉 Create jobs
- 👉 Raise property values
- 👉 OSFC money may not be available in the future

**Pay a little now... or a lot later.**

# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

**VOTE  
YES!**

**👉 Good Schools = Good Value**

## **New Buildings Will Save Millions**

In this age of energy conservation, new schools built for the 21st century stretch dollars through modern electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning systems. A key feature of the March 6th ballot issue is that .5 mills must be set aside for maintenance of the buildings--- guaranteeing that our investment will be protected.



Possible Library



# Beaver Local's Opportunity of a Lifetime



## Why Now?

VOTE  
YES!

There are many reasons for our community to act now to build this school.

1. There is no way to tell whether the State money will be available beyond this year. Districts now on the list--like Beaver Local--have guaranteed funds, but beyond that the future is cloudy at best.
2. Our Board of Education has voted to proceed with school consolidation, reducing the number of Beaver Local Schools from 5 to 1.  
Does it make sense to continue using buildings that have exceeded their lifespan, or should we take advantage of the State program to construct new structures that will serve future generations better?
3. Pay now or pay ***much more*** later. We can either pay something now and have schools that are a credit to our community, or pay much more later as our schools continue to deteriorate and construction costs rise. Meanwhile in the future, the State money will no longer be available. Local taxpayers would then have to pay 100% of the cost for new schools.
4. Record low interest rates will ensure more bang for the buck when voters approve the bond issue.
5. The land and utilities are already available, saving many thousands of dollars.

It's a win-win situation for everyone.



# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

👉 **The Goal -  
Giving Our Teachers the  
Tools They Need to  
Educate Our Children Well**

**VOTE  
YES!**

No one is more important to learning than a skilled teacher. Given that fact, some people ask why up-to-date facilities are even necessary.

The answer is that by providing classrooms equipped with the finest technology and equipment--- including adequate air conditioning in hot weather and heat in cold conditions--- we are providing teachers with tools to do their job well.

National studies show that learning prospers in hospitable environments where good teachers work hard and produce sound results. Beaver Local is proud of its teachers and rightly so - we have been designated as a School of Excellence by the Ohio State Board of Education. Passage of the bond issue will give all students and teachers access to classrooms that match what other communities provide. Without adding frills, the new schools will last for generations and build pride among all citizens---not just students and teachers.



# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

**VOTE  
YES!**

## Consolidating Beaver Local Schools Will Save Millions

To increase efficiency Beaver Local can no longer afford to operate 5 schools. The wisdom of consolidating schools is a matter of dollars and cents and we can't become more efficient without consolidating. The decision isn't whether consolidation will occur. What we'll decide on March 6th is whether history is made and consolidation takes place in up-to-date buildings that reflect Beaver Local's values. Otherwise, consolidation will occur using buildings that are 60+ years old and extremely expensive to maintain and to operate. It will be up to us to decide on March 6th.



High School Built 1958



West Point Elementary Built 1951



Middle School Built 1959



Rogers Elementary Built 1951



Calcutta Elementary Built 1951

# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

## Answers to Your Questions About the March 6th Bond Issue for Beaver Local Schools

*Q.* I don't have school age children. Why vote FOR the bond issue?

*A.* We hope this booklet gives you information needed to make a sound decision. If we do not pass the bond issue, it will take millions of dollars in local taxes to maintain buildings that are nearing the end of their useful lives. Beaver Local has a golden opportunity to rejuvenate our local economy beginning March 6th. That benefits us all.

*Q.* Will the new buildings be available for public use?

*A.* Yes. In fact, our Board of Education has made it plain that after hours community use of the structures will be offered for meetings, clubs, recreation and activities.

*Q.* How do I know that the new buildings will be well maintained and last?

*A.* As a condition for its investment in Beaver Local, the State requires that .5 mills be earmarked for a maintenance account. Taxpayers elsewhere have applauded this fund because it protects their investment and there are tight controls on how the money is spent.

*Q.* How much will the bond issue cost me?

*A.* The millage requested for the bond issue and maintenance fund amounts to 5.723 mills or about \$14.61 a month on a property valued at \$100,000.

# Beaver Local's Opportunity of a Lifetime

*Q.* Why build new rather than renovate existing buildings?

*A.* There are several reasons, the most important of which is that building new will save taxpayers millions of dollars over time. After all, we're not talking about slapping on a coat of paint. Anyone who has renovated an entire building knows that the costs are often as great, and sometimes even higher, than building new. With schools, every system needs to be replaced or updated, and building standards that didn't even exist years ago---like asbestos removal and student security--- must now be followed. Patching up buildings that are over a half century old rarely produces economical results. In addition, please keep in mind that the State of Ohio requires a district to build new if the cost to renovate is not a good value. In Beaver Local's case, it was found that it would be an inefficient use of funds to renovate. In addition, renovating now would mean that the buildings will still need major work down the road---and the State will no longer be providing support for such projects.

*Q.* Why do we need new buildings?

- A.*
- 1) A single campus school will significantly cost less than maintaining, renovating and/or repairing our current five aging buildings.
  - 2) Consolidating five old buildings to one new one will save money by reducing operating costs.
  - 3) New facilities will support classroom learning technology.
  - 4) New buildings will have high efficiency climate control systems, including geothermal - the gold standard for efficiency.
  - 5) The State of Ohio is paying for more than \$34 million of this project.
  - 6) This construction project will provide a boom to our community's economy at a time when it is much needed.
  - 7) It needs to be done so, either we pay a little now with the State's offer to pay 62% of the cost or a lot later when the state may not provide further assistance.

# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

## LONG TERM SAVINGS

Building	Cost to Renovate (2009 cost estimates) *	Cost to Consolidate 3 elementaries into 2 buildings and Reno- vate HS & MS *	Cost to Consolidate into 1 building
Beaver Local High School	\$9,859,665	\$9,859,665	
Beaver Local Middle School	\$9,227,290	\$9,227,290	
Calcutta Elementary	\$3,734,098	\$3,734,098	
Rogers Elementary	\$2,088,814		
West Point Elementary	\$2,053,007	\$2,053,007	
New Campus			\$21,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,962,874</b>	<b>\$24,874,060</b>	<b>\$21,500,000</b>

Note: Does not include costs to add/move modular classrooms for additional space needs.

\* Since the buildings failed the OSFC's 2/3 rule, renovations would be a local responsibility.

## YOUR ESTIMATED COST

Appraised Home Value by Columbiana County Auditor	Assessed Value	Cost Per Year	Cost Per Half Year	Cost Per Month	Cost Per Week	Cost Per Day
40,000.00	14,000.00	70.11	35.05	5.84	1.35	0.19
60,000.00	21,000.00	105.16	52.58	8.76	2.02	0.29
80,000.00	28,000.00	140.21	70.11	11.68	2.70	0.38
100,000.00	35,000.00	175.27	87.63	14.61	3.37	0.48
110,000.00	38,500.00	192.79	96.40	16.07	3.71	0.53
120,000.00	42,000.00	210.32	105.16	17.53	4.04	0.58
125,000.00	43,750.00	219.08	109.54	18.26	4.21	0.60
130,000.00	45,500.00	227.85	113.92	18.99	4.38	0.62
140,000.00	49,000.00	245.37	122.69	20.45	4.72	0.67
150,000.00	52,500.00	262.90	131.45	21.91	5.06	0.72
175,000.00	61,250.00	306.72	153.36	25.56	5.90	0.84
200,000.00	70,000.00	350.53	175.27	29.21	6.74	0.96
225,000.00	78,750.00	394.35	197.18	32.86	7.58	1.08
250,000.00	87,500.00	438.17	219.08	36.51	8.43	1.20

### Assumptions:

- Millage includes the .5 mill Classroom Facility (Maintenance) issue in addition to the 5.223 mill bond issue for a total of 5.723 mills.
- Cost to Homeowner represents residential taxpayer cost including 10% rollback and 2 1/2% tax credit.
- As the local economy grows, the millage rate will go down.

Paid for by the BEST Levy Committee, Debbie Barrett, Treasurer, 13093 State Route 7, Lisbon, OH 44432

# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime



## BOND ISSUE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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The proposed bond issue is not a request for day -to-day operations and by law; no funds are permitted to pay salary and fringes to staff. All monies raised by the bond issue are to be used for the new Pre-Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade school campus. The time is great with the State of Ohio paying 62% of the construction cost. Interest rates for construction are at all-time lows and the cost of construction and materials are going to rise. Renovation/repairs to the current buildings will result in higher cost to the Beaver Local community, and the State of Ohio would not be providing any financial assistance.

The Beaver Local team for the past 15 fiscal years has not asked the voters for additional tax money through operating levies. The District has worked hard over the past three years to bring expenses within the revenues received. The District's leadership has collaborated with the Fiscal Oversight Commission to produce a positive five-year forecast. The Board of Education will be requesting release from Fiscal Commission in early 2012.

Beaver Local schools are some of the oldest buildings currently used throughout the county. Neighboring districts have either built new facilities, or major renovations and expansion. Even though Beaver Local has received an Excellence rating from the Ohio Department of Education, many resident students leaving Beaver Local are for better school building environments and enhance learning opportunities that new facilities can provide.

### Cost-Saving measures the District has achieved:

1. Negotiations that resulted in the teaching and administrative staff receiving a base salary freeze for the current year. The classified staff received a small increase (10¢ per hour). The classified staff voluntarily took a base wage freeze for the previous year. In addition, health insurance concessions were agreed upon. Staff health care premium contributions were increased.
2. Joined a health insurance consortium.
3. Reduction of staff size over the last four years.
4. Using purchasing consortiums for electricity and natural gas utilities, and supplies.
5. Food Service operations had its first positive ending balance since the early 1990's through reductions and supply purchasing through a cooperative.

The next step is to consolidate facilities and reduce the duplication of efforts in each of the existing facilities. Consolidating facilities from 5 to 1 building would provide greater efficiency with daily operations and resources. For example, the school nurse currently travels between buildings, under on campus; the nurse would be available to all students throughout the school day.

# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

**Vote YES on March 6th**

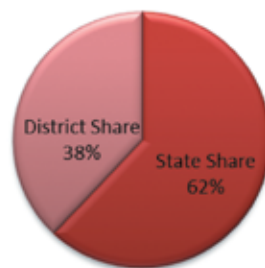
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## **PROJECT PROPOSAL:**

**1 Building for Pre-Kindergarten  
through Grade 12**

- ◇ Estimated Interest Rate for Bond Issuance = 4.50%
- ◇ Length of Debt Issuance = 28 Years
- ◇ Estimated Millage Rate = 5.223 Mills
  - 5.223 Mills plus .5 mills maintenance Levy (below) for a total of 5.723 mills.
- ◇ Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) Requirement of Maintenance Levy for New Construction = ½ Mill
- ◇ Length of Collection Period = 23 Years

**Total Estimated Project Cost =  
\$56,000,000**





# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime



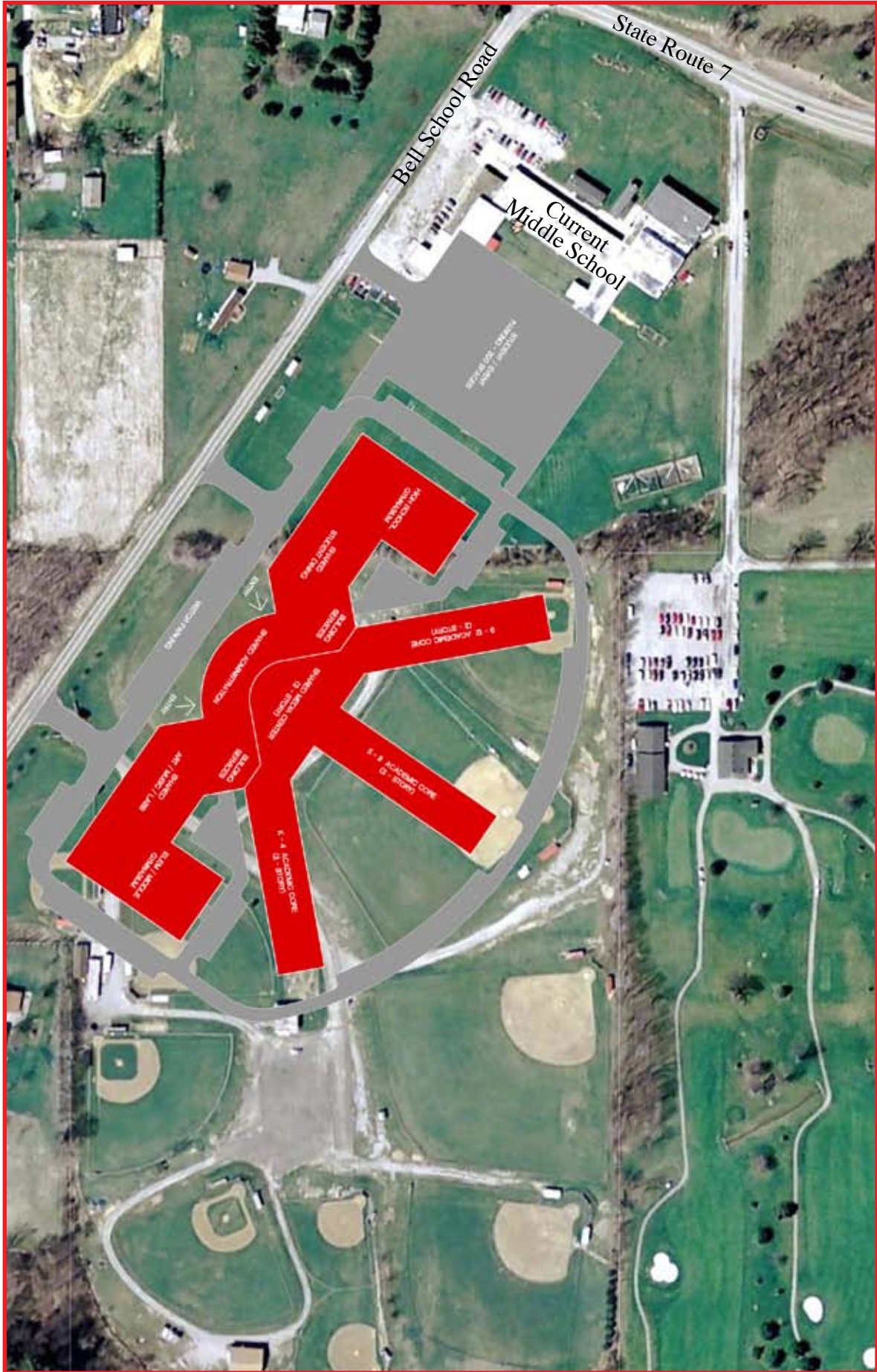
## Jobs for Our Struggling Economy

VOTE  
YES!

Imagine what a \$56 million construction project would do for our community's economy.

- Good paying jobs would be created
- Hundreds of thousands in taxes would be paid by workers---easing the tax burden on residents for essential services like police, fire, and EMS.
- With new schools, the Beaver Local School District would become an attractive place to live for young people starting a family. And many area small businesses would get a shot in the arm by selling everything from lunches to construction materials.
- Local contractors would have the right to bid on subcontract work, and in many Ohio communities programs have been set up to help local builders and merchants apply for work.
- At a time when we're all concerned about the future of the Ohio Valley, isn't it great to know that \$34.7 million in REAL economic stimulus is waiting for us in Columbus! The March 6th bond issue is more than bricks and mortar. It's Beaver Local's future, with the State of Ohio paying 62% of the cost.
- According to the Wright State University Center for Urban and Public Affairs Economy Impact Analysis, the total impact of new construction on the local economy is estimated to be 76.7 jobs. These jobs are estimated to generate nearly \$78 thousand in state and local sales and income tax and other revenues and \$167 thousand in sales tax revenues. For this study, the economic impact is based on the estimated school district wide expenditure of \$56 million in FY 2012 for the construction of the facility.

👉 Where Will the New Building be Located?



# Beaver Local's *Opportunity* of a Lifetime

## SAMPLE BALLOT

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS AND ISSUES BALLOT  
PRIMARY ELECTION – MARCH 6, 2012  
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO


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### PROPOSED BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY BEAVER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall bonds be issued by the Beaver Local School District to pay the local share of school construction under the State of Ohio Classroom Facilities Assistance Program in the principal amount of \$21,500,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 28 years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue \_\_\_\_ mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to \_\_\_\_ cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of the bonds?

Shall an additional levy of taxes be made for a period of twenty-three years to benefit the Beaver Local School District, the proceeds of which shall be used to pay the cost of maintaining the classroom facilities included in the project at the rate of one-half (0.5) mill for each one dollar of valuation?

	FOR THE BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY
	AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY