



# TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | [www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org)

*Talawanda School District EMPOWERS Every Learner Every Day!*

## FQA8 Other Needed Projects and Unanticipated Expenditures

Contact: Ed Theroux, Superintendent/CEO [theroux@talawanda.org](mailto:theroux@talawanda.org)  
[levyinformation@talawanda.org](mailto:levyinformation@talawanda.org)

Our goal is to provide additional information to clear up misinformation. We also want to increase the community's understanding of Talawanda School District and its finances.

### **Question 1: Why is TSD building a new bus/garage facility during a fiscal crisis?**

The bus/garage facility was an unfortunate/unanticipated cost.

The Butler County Regional Transit Authority, City of Oxford, Miami University, and Talawanda have partnered together (dating back to 2015) to look at redesigning the current transportation hub into a multimodal hub found on Chestnut Street. Grants were applied/received by BCRTA to build this new transportation hub. However the grants did not pay for the entire project, as BCRTA learned that the grant could not 'supplant' TSD's portion. We learned this news after the design phase was completed; with Talawanda School District's cost to participate being a little more than 3 million dollars. Collaborating in this multimodal project would have provided TSD room for both our transportation and facilities departments, however; TSD would not have any ownership in the building, as the lease would be for 40 years. The Board of Education at one of its monthly meetings made the difficult decision that if money needed to be spent on a new bus/facility project, it would be better to construct a new facility, control the project and have an investment that included a life beyond the 40 year lease that had been proposed. Having a TSD owned building will provide better taxpayer stewardship as opposed to leasing.

TSD still supports the new transportation hub, but needs to ensure taxpayer dollars are being utilized to benefit the Talawanda School District.

### **Question 2: What is going on with the Nelson Morrow building (PDC) behind SDS?**

The Nelson Morrow building is located behind SDS pizza. Technology, Student Services, Teaching and Learning, and Professional Development are provided in this building. This building as well as the Administration/Board Office (on Chestnut) continue to need repairs and upkeep. Both were not designed for the purposes being used for. Additional costs will be coming to maintain both buildings.

AmTrak may be coming to Oxford. There has been an interest in the Nelson Morrow building. While we are talking with individuals about the AmTrak project and support this project, we recognize Talawanda School District is not in a financial position to buy or build a new Nelson Morrow building.

While these were unforeseen, these issues did not create the fiscal crisis. TSD has been on the track for many years as stated in FQA1. These issues did not help our condition either.

### **Question 3: What is TSD doing with the middle school building?**

In the current master facilities plan, the next step would be to renovate the middle school. However, the bus/garage facility pushed back the renovation of the middle school. Besides the Board Offices and Nelson Morrow buildings, the middle school is the oldest building educating students. TSD leaders recognize the middle school needs to be renovated to improve the educational programs, technology, meet new safety standards, update electrical, heating, cooling, and other facility needs, and meet the changing needs in education.

While the middle school renovations have been pushed back to focus on and pay for the new bus/facility building, we are working towards renovating the building in smaller increments. We currently are working to use some of our COVID19/ESSER funds to help pay for a new air handler system and windows. Remember that these funds as well as the Permanent Improvement (PI or Capital Funds) can only be used for certain items. We have approval to use these funds to help renovate the middle school.

Additional Information may be found at:

\*Board of Education Meeting videos

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/board-of-education-30/virtual-boe-meetings-links-314/>  
or [www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org) Click Departments Click Board of Education Click Videos)

\*\*[www.talawanda.org](http://www.talawanda.org) or

<https://www.talawanda.org/departments/treasurer---finance-42/understanding-school-finance-395>