



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | www.talawanda.org

Talawanda School District EMPOWERS Every Learner Every Day!

FQA9 Communication of Information

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This is an additional communication addressing questions and concerns related to the Talawanda School District and its fiscal distress. The goal is to provide additional information to clear up misinformation. TSD also wants to increase the community's understanding of the Talawanda School District.

Question 1: Why doesn't the Board of Education make decisions outside of the Board meetings?

The Board of Education members cannot make decisions outside of a Board of Education meeting. Board members also cannot speak/make decisions for other Board members or for the entire Board.

The Board of Education is legally required to make its decisions at a Board of Education meeting that is open to the public. Public participation is allowed at Regular and Special Board meetings where decisions are being made. Each Board of Education meeting is a business meeting where the Board members make decisions as required by law.

Question 2: How is the Talawanda School District being transparent with the decisions being made?

The Talawanda School District wants the community to be informed about the district's operations.

TSD provides many methods that are sanctioned by the Talawanda School District to communicate information. We use our website (www.talawanda.org), Talawanda Social Media channels (Twitter and Blog), an all call system,(text messages, emails, phone calls), e-news, and paper communications (letter, memos, press releases) to communicate with our community and families. The Board of Education meetings are also videotaped and archived on the TSD website. Community members may access the taped Board meetings at their convenience. Families need to complete and update Final Forms each year and when information changes (I.E. change in email address or phone numbers) the district/buildings need to be informed in order to make the changes in our system. Community members also need to remember when they **block**

the communications system on their devices, these community members will no longer receive this information.

The goal has been to communicate with families through different modalities (I.E. Paper, Telephone, Text, Website, Talawanda Twitter, E-News, district/building/principal/teacher contacts, taped Board meetings, Superintendent quarterly videos, and Talawanda Blog). TSD recognizes many of our community members have a preference as well as time commitments and skills in each of these areas. By offering different communication modalities, we hope to reach all community members.

Remember...Board of Education decisions are made at Board of Education meetings ONLY.

Decisions made at the district and building levels are shared with the families using one or all of the modalities listed above. The goal is to provide information to our community members. There are different roles and responsibilities for the Board of Education, Superintendent, Treasurer, Principals, administrators, teachers, and staff.

Question 3: There are a lot of stories and rumors and community members may not know what to believe or where to go to find accurate information. How can community members ensure they receive accurate information?

The Talawanda School District uses many communication forms to communicate with our community. These are listed above. TSD does not always use all of the modalities to communicate. Decisions are made on what modality to communicate the information based upon the content of the message. However, the Talawanda School District will ONLY communicate through our Talawanda systems.

There are many private social media sites (I.E. Tik Tok, Instagram, FaceBook). TSD does not patrol or control any of the information shared within these sites. Sometimes, questions are posed with answers or information is shared in these sites that are not accurate. Sometimes, the information is correct or has kernels of truth in these sites. Sometimes, the information is simply wrong and designed to spread controversy and misinformation.

TSD wants our community members to have the most accurate and correct information possible. The Talawanda approved communication sites are the places to find the information. Community members may also email, send letters, or make telephone calls to the Board members, Superintendent, Treasurer, administrators, or staff to ask questions, clarify information, or work through an issue. Please first start with the person or level where the issue starts (I.E. child issue with the teacher then principal then central office).

Again, information that is posted or shared on non Talawanda venues may be inaccurate. Accurate information is found on our approved communication platforms. The website (www.talawanda.org) contains a large amount of information including our Board of Education taped meetings. We encourage community members to use the website to find the most accurate

information. Contact TSD if you cannot find the information or have additional questions or issues.

Question 4: Are there any forums that I may attend?

Yes, go to www.talawanda.org. Click on the 2022 Levy Facts tab on the top left hand side. Click on the Public Meeting Requests tab.

As we are invited to present facts and information, we will list the place, location, and time. We also will not if there are any conditions for that meeting.

Contact Information

Constituents may contact Shaunna Tafelski at tafelskis@talawanda.org or Ed Theroux at theroux@talawanda.org or for levy information at levyinformation@talawanda.org. You may also contact principals or teachers if there are questions related to their areas.

Additional information may be found on our website: www.talawanda.org or <https://www.talawanda.org/departments/treasurer---finance-42/understanding-school-finance-395>

**DeRolph Decision at:

<https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/0/2002/2002-Ohio-6750.pdf> or https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DeRolph_v._State#:~:text=State%20is%20a%20landmark%20case,funding%20public%20education%20was%20unconstitutional

***Board of Education Meeting videos (

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

****AG Audit at:

<https://www.talawanda.org/media/treasurer/TSD-%20Audit%20March%202020.pdf>

*****Ohio Department of Education report cards at <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/> or <https://reportcard.education.ohio.gov/district/gradrate/046151>

*****CUPP Report November 2021 at:

<https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Finance-and-Funding/School-Payment-Reports/District-Profile-Reports>