



The Aggie Express

A publication of the Beal City Public Schools

www.bealcityschools.net

November 2008

Millage Proposal 2008 Q & A

On Nov. 4, 2008 Beal City School district voters will be voting on a Non-Homestead Millage Renewal. Below are answers to frequently asked questions concerning this millage renewal.

What does “non-homestead” mean?

Non-homestead property includes industrial, commercial and “second homes.” It does not include a family’s primary residence.

I thought schools no longer received funding through property taxes, so why are they talking about a millage renewal?

Funding for school districts changed significantly in 1993/94 when the Michigan voters passed proposal A. Under Proposal A, the State provides the majority of school funding through the per pupil foundation allowance, but to receive that full funding, schools must levy 18 mills on non-homestead property in their district.

If schools must levy 18 mills to receive full funding from the State, why are we being asked to approve more than 18 mills?

Due to a law called Headlee—the operating millage is often “rolled back” each year as the law is designed to limit the increase in the operating tax levy to the increase in the consumer price index. Approval for the first 18 mills will allow the district to levy 18 mills in 2009. Depending on how much the operating millage must be “rolled back” 2009 may be the only year the district would be allowed to levy a full 18 mills. The additional proposition is

intended to allow the district to levy a full 18 mills for a period of four years, 2009-2012. The district cannot levy more than 18 operating mills in any given year.

Is this a new tax?

No. This is a renewal of a millage approved by the voters in 2004 and 1999.

How much will this cost my business?

This renewal will have little effect on your current taxes. For a business property with a taxable value of \$200,000 the tax would cost \$3,600 ($\$200,000/1,000 \times 18$ mills), similar to what you are paying today.

Will my residential school taxes increase too?

No. This tax is on non-homestead property and does not apply to your primary place of residence.

What if the millage is voted down?

The revenue generated from the 18 mills is more than \$230,000. If the millage does not pass, Beal City Public Schools will have to figure out a way to operate with \$230,000 less. Therefore it is critical to continue to collect 18 mills on non-homestead property to attain full funding.

“Vote Nov 4, 2008 for you, our school, and our community”

Pedaling Preschoolers



On October 2nd the preschool students brought their bikes and trikes to school to ride in the annual St. Jude's Children Research Hospital Trike-A-Thon. The students collected money donations

from family and friends to support the children's hospital. All donations go directly to the hospital to pay for Cancer care for children. The preschool raised \$1332.50 this year. In the last 8 years the preschool classes have raised over \$10,000.00 to help children with cancer. Preschoolers can make a difference!



On Saturday September 13, members of the National Honor Society traveled in to Mt. Pleasant to collect donations for the United Way. The donations they were collecting were school supplies for the upcoming school year. The task ahead of them was to sort out donated school supplies that would later be delivered to schools.

Aggie Band performs at Michigan Hockey game



The Beal City High School Band performed in place of the University of Michigan Hockey Band on Saturday, October 4. Forty-three Beal City musicians, grades eight to 12, travelled to Ann Arbor to perform as guests of the University of Michigan Athletic Bands. The performance opportunity developed for the Beal City Band due to a scheduling conflict between U-M's homecoming football contest against Illinois and the hockey home opener.

Students prepared traditional pep band music played at home football games, as well as standards for the Michigan Band, including the Blues Brothers Theme and, of course, The Victors. The Yost Arena crowd was extremely appreciative and supportive of our band, sharing numerous compliments with chaperones and students.

During the visit to Ann Arbor, students also ate dinner at the Michigan Union and received a brief tour of U-M's Central Campus led by Mr. Lowe. Although an extremely long day (the coach did not return until after 1am Sunday morning), an excellent time was had by all participants.



WAY TO GO AGGIE BAND!

FEATURED TEACHER

Scott Leppert



We would like to welcome Scott Leppert to our Beal City family. Scott was hired shortly after school started and is now our Tech Ed teacher. He is married to Sabrina (Pohl) Leppert, who is an Underwriting Assistant, and they have a 15 month old daughter named Liliana Mae. They do not have any pets but they have a friendly fox squirrel that frequents their backyard. He is hoping to have another dog in the future.

Scott graduated from Rogers City High School in 1996 and received an Associates of Science Degree from Alpena Community College in 1998. He has also received a Bachelors of Science degree from Central Michigan University in 2001 and a Secondary Teaching Certificate from CMU in 2004.

Scott has worked at MC Sports in Mt. Pleasant and for the Mt. Pleasant Parks Department. He was a substitute teacher in Isabella, Gratiot, Clare and Oakland Counties. He was also a P.E.A.K. Site Coordinator, Student Mentor and Summer School Administrator at West Intermediate Schools in Mt. Pleasant until his hiring here at Beal City.

His favorite foods are anything from Olive Garden. His favorite books are Tiger Force, and Marley and Me, and he has read a lot of books on parenting and teaching the past 2 years. His favorite music is the Dave Matthews Band, Pearl Jam, Lynyrd Skynrd, CCR, AC/DC, Guns 'N Roses, Johnny Cash, Toby Keith, Taylor Swift and anything "Polka Clem" plays on Sundays up north. He enjoys playing basketball, sand volleyball, snowboarding, knee boarding and running. His favorite activities are spending time with his family and enjoying everything Michigan has to offer! His most cherished things have been his parents and family and especially the birth of his daughter.

Scott's travel highlight was a trip to Jamaica where he proposed to Sabrina on the top of Dunn's Rivers Falls. He almost lost the ring in his pocket at least once! He was very happy the ring was there when he proposed. His highlights for this year are his daughters 1st birthday and teaching at Beal City Public Schools.

His future plans are to buy a house in the Beal City area and coach.

He says, "He is living a dream by working at Beal City Public Schools. The students, staff, administrators, parents and everyone in the community are amazing!"

FEATURED TEACHER

Suzanne Pappas



Mrs. Suzanne Pappas is the newest addition to our preschool staff. She was a substitute teacher in our building and other schools in Gratiot and Isabella County this fall before accepting the position of long-term sub in our preschool. She is a

"seasoned" senior at CMU in their Elementary and Early Childhood Education program. Mrs. Pappas also attended Mid-Michigan Community College. Prior to substitute teaching she worked at Oasis High School and Mt. Pleasant Community Education. Mrs. Pappas also has a great deal of experience volunteering and working with preschool age children. After student teaching in our morning preschool and teaching afternoon preschool classes, she will be graduating from CMU in May.

Mrs. Pappas' husband Gus is a steel estimator. They live in Clare with their three children. Augustus (13), Kyra (11), and Jillian (10) all attend Clare Middle School. Their pets include horses, donkeys, dogs, and a cat. Mrs. Pappas enjoys being a spectator at the many sporting events in which her children are involved. She cheers from the sidelines at basketball, baseball, softball and soccer games.

Mrs. Pappas has many hobbies and interests. She enjoys quilting, reading and being outdoors. Her favorite books include mystery and suspense novels. Listening to country music is another favorite pastime. She also enjoys eating all kinds of food. One of Mrs. Pappas' travel highlights included a Western Caribbean cruise last year. Mrs. Pappas is excited about teaching in the Mayes Elementary Preschool program and hopes to obtain a permanent teaching position upon graduation. A Big Beal City welcome to Mrs. Pappas!

Winter Parent Sports Meeting Scheduled

There will be a parent/coaches/athlete meeting on Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. for all junior high and high school athletes who will be playing basketball this winter. The boys will meet in the big gym and the girls will meet in the small gym.

This meeting will be your opportunity to meet the coaches, go over team rules, and pay your participation fee. All players are required to have a physical form on file as well as a signed copy of the team rules turned in before practicing. The participation fee needs to be turned in before the first game.

Basketball Camp

The Beal City Junior Basketball Camp will be starting on Saturday, December 6. The camp is for boys and girls in the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Camp registration forms have been passed out and are still available in elementary offices.

The Junior Basketball Camp will be led by Kaleb House and Tom Lavoie, the boys and girls varsity basketball coaches. They will be assisted by their coaching staffs and players. Each camper will receive a camp t-shirt and instruction in basketball fundamentals, individual and team skills and strategies.

Camp times and dates are as follows:

☺ third and fourth grade girls and boys from 8:15 to 9:45

☺ fifth and sixth grade girls and boys from 10:00 to 11:30

December 6, 13, 20

January 10, 17, 24

Beal City Athletic Association



A vinyl banner donated by John and Kim (Schafer) Hemingway of Kalamazoo will hang in the outdoor athletic complex during the remainder of the fall sports season. The banner will move inside to hang in the gym during winter sports season to celebrate the many years of proud aggie athletic tradition. Kim (Schafer) Hemingway graduated from Beal City High School in 1983 and is the daughter of Ron and Joyce Schafer.

A HUGE thank you goes out to all the parents, family and community members who took the time out of their busy schedules this fall to volunteer in the concession stand during the Football, Volleyball, and Cross Country seasons. Without you we would not be a success. Basketball Season is right around the corner. When you have athletes playing sports each season please watch for our important post card or check the school website for more information regarding the BCAA and the concession stand schedule. If the time you are scheduled to work the concession stand does not work for you, remember you can always trade a date with another family member or ask the BCAA member listed on your post card for help. Please help us keep this AGGIE tradition alive!

Mayes Elementary School could always use gently worn winter clothing for students to wear on the playground. Items needed include coats, snow pants, scarves, and gloves. Please consider donating these clean, used items to the elementary office. Thank you for your generosity!

Mark Your Calendars!

October 31	End of first marking period, elementary students dismissed at 11:40 a.m. NO LUNCH SERVED.
November 3 -7	PTO Book Fair
November 6	Parent-Teacher Conferences & evening Book Fair
November 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 12	Santa's Shop for elementary shoppers
December 18	Holiday Program/Senior Citizens Reception

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, November 6 for both elementary and high school students. Preschool through sixth grade conferences will be scheduled from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The elementary office has scheduled individual conferences. Appointment times will be sent home in Friday folders on October 24.

Conferences for grades 7-12 will be held from 12:00 noon - 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm -8:00 pm. If you have any questions, please call the Elementary office at 644-2740 or the Junior/Senior High Office at 644-3944.

Walk-a-thon Results:

Thank you to everyone who took the time to pledge money for the Walk-a-thon. We raised about \$2,800. This is pretty awesome for having only about 30% participation. Congratulations to:

PTO News



- Alexandria Fussman for raising the most money. She received a \$50 Meijer gift card and enjoyed being "PRINCIPAL FOR THE DAY". When asked what she enjoyed most about that experience she stated that the best part was supervising and blowing her whistle on the playground. Alexandria thought the Walk-a-thon was great. She liked getting to walk with her friends and doing cartwheels on the track. Alexandria even said at the end of the day that she would like to

be a principal when she grows up!

- Mrs. Courtright's class received \$100 in their classroom account for raising the most money per classroom.
- Mr. Bloniarczyk had the most class participation and will receive \$50 in Scholastic books.
- A HUGE thank you to Mrs. Sharrar and Mr. Beckwith for all their help.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:

- November 3 - 7
- Open during Parent-Teacher Conferences on the evening of November 6

AGGIE SPIRIT WEAR:

- For all of you who have asked...Aggie Spirit items will be available at Parent-Teacher Conferences on November 6.

PTO MEETINGS:

- First Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. PLEASE JOIN US in the Title Classroom!

Board Briefs

The following was approved at a regular board meeting on October 20, 2008:

- ✍ General Fund payments of \$270,326.56, Hot Lunch payments of \$25,170.87, Capital Projects/General Fund payments of \$2,933.89, and Athletic Fund payments of \$12,810.84.
- ✍ The Board of Education Goals as presented: Increase Student Achievement, Secure the School District's Financial Integrity, and Promote the School District and Provide Positive School and Community Relations throughout the Mid-Michigan area by improving our public relations campaign.
- ✍ The 2007-2008 Audit.
- ✍ The following coaching recommendation as presented: Amanda Wilson - JV Girls Basketball, and JV Softball.

Winter Sports Schedule

JH Boys Basketball

Mon. Dec. 8	6:00 p.m.	@McBain NMC
Thurs. Dec. 11	6:00 p.m.	Marion
Mon. Dec. 15	6:00 p.m.	Pine River
Thurs. Dec. 18	5:00 p.m.	@Ewart
Mon. Jan. 5	6:00 p.m.	McBain
Thurs. Jan 8	5:00 p.m.	@Lake City
Mon. Jan. 12	6:00 p.m.	Manton
Thurs. Jan. 15	6:00 p.m.	McBain NMC
Mon. Jan 19	6:00 p.m.	@Marion
Thurs. Jan 22	6:00 p.m.	@Pine River
Mon. Jan. 26	6:00 p.m.	Ewart
Thurs. Jan. 29	6:00 p.m.	@McBain

Freshman Boys Basketball

Tues. Dec. 16	6:00 p.m.	Morey Charter
Mon. Dec 22	4:30 p.m.	SHA
Tues. Dec 30	4:30 p.m.	Carson City Crystal
Tues. Jan. 6	6:00 p.m.	@Ewart
Thurs. Jan. 15	4:15 p.m.	@Lake City
Tues. Jan. 20	6:00 p.m.	@McBain
Fri. Jan. 23	4:15 p.m.	@Pine River
Tues. Jan. 27	4:30 p.m.	@Montabella
Thurs. Jan. 29	4:15 p.m.	Lake City
Tues. Feb. 3	6:00 p.m.	Ewart
Mon. Feb. 16	5:30 p.m.	@Morey Charter
Fri. Feb. 20	6:00 p.m.	McBain
Tues. Feb. 24	4:30 p.m.	@SHA
Thurs. Feb. 26	6:00 p.m.	Pine River

JV/V Boys Basketball

Tues. Dec 16	6:00 p.m.	Ashley
Mon. Dec. 22	6:00 p.m.	SHA
Tues. Dec. 30	6:00 p.m.	Carson City Crystal
Tues. Jan 6	6:00 p.m.	@Marion
Fri. Jan. 9	6:00 p.m.	McBain NMC
Tues. Jan. 13	6:00 p.m.	@Ashley
Thurs. Jan. 15	6:00 p.m.	Manton
Tues. Jan. 20	6:00 p.m.	@McBain
Fri. Jan. 23	6:00 p.m.	@Pine River
Tues. Jan 27	6:00 p.m.	@Montabella
Thurs. Jan. 29	6:00 p.m.	Lake City
Tues. Feb. 3	6:00 p.m.	Ewart
Fri. Feb. 6	6:00 p.m.	Marion
Mon. Feb. 9	6:00 p.m.	Vestaburg
Thurs. Feb. 12	6:00 p.m.	@McBain NMC
Tues. Feb. 17	6:00 p.m.	@Manton
Fri. Feb. 20	6:00 p.m.	McBain
Thurs. Feb. 26	6:00 p.m.	Pine River
Tues. Mar 3	6:00 p.m.	@Lake City
Thurs. Mar 5	6:00 p.m.	@Ewart

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball

Tues. Dec. 2	6:00 p.m.	Beaverton
Tues. Dec. 9	6:00 p.m.	Marion
Fri. Dec. 12	6:00 p.m.	@McBain NMC
Fri. Dec. 19	6:00 p.m.	Ashley
Tues. Dec. 23	6:00 p.m.	@SHA
Mon. Jan. 5	6:00 p.m.	@Montabella
Thurs. Jan. 8	6:00 p.m.	@Manton
Tues. Jan 13	6:00 p.m.	McBain
Fri. Jan 16	6:00 p.m.	Pine River
Thurs. Jan 22	6:00 p.m.	@Lake City
Tues. Jan 27	6:00 p.m.	@Ewart
Thurs. Jan 29	6:00 p.m.	@Ashley
Fri. Jan 30	6:00 p.m.	@Marion
Tues. Feb 3	6:00 p.m.	@Beaverton
Thurs. Feb 5	6:00 p.m.	McBain NMC
Tues. Feb 10	6:00 p.m.	Manton
Fri. Feb 13	6:00 p.m.	@McBain
Thurs. Feb 19	6:00 p.m.	@Pine River
Tues. Feb 24	6:00 p.m.	Lake City
Fri. Feb 27	6:00 p.m.	Ewart
Mon. Mar 2	TBA	MHSAA District
Wed. Mar 4	TBA	MHSAA District
Fri. Mar 6	TBA	MHSAA District

Junior High Girls Basketball season begins in February. Their schedule will be in the January issue.

All sports schedules are subject to change



REPORT to PARENTS

-Having Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences

It doesn't matter if you're the student, the teacher, or the parent, parent-teacher conferences are bound to cause some anxiety. Yet these one-on-one meetings are priceless opportunities for families to get a better understanding of their children. By preparing well for your meetings with teachers and following up with both your children and their teachers afterward, you can strengthen your children's school success.

Before the Conference:

Listen. Any time you hear your child talking about something he or she is doing really well in or is having trouble with – either with schoolwork or with classmates – make a note of it. When it's time for the conference with the teacher, you'll have a ready-made list of things to discuss

Ask. When it's time to schedule the conference with the teacher, sit down with your child and ask him or her what you should discuss with the teacher. Encourage your children to open up and tell you what it's like for them in the classroom. Do they feel like they're falling behind academically? Or are they bored because they understand the material that the rest of the class is struggling with? Are there any troubling issues with any of their classmates? One thing that's guaranteed to get your children to open up is asking them what they think their teacher is going to tell you about them.

Bring notes and papers. Write down questions you want to address with the teacher. Bring copies of any assignments you have questions about. Think ahead of time how to be tactful and kind in wording concerns you have about the teacher or the class.

During the Conference:

Be on time. Schools tightly schedule parent-teacher conferences because there's only so much time available and dozens of families to see. Show up at least a few minutes early, so you know you'll be set to begin when

it's your turn.

Hire a babysitter. It's important to make sure that the time you have with the teacher is as productive as possible. Having other children in the room is distracting. Either hire a babysitter or trade off with another parent so that your children don't tag along.

Take notes. In addition to presenting the questions and concerns you brought to the meeting, make sure to take notes about what the teacher is telling you about your child. Be sure to address these important areas: strengths, weaknesses, and social skills.

Keep emotions out of it. It is always difficult to hear that your "angel" or "young Einstein" isn't exactly the person you thought he or she was in the classroom. Keep your cool and bear in mind that the teacher is offering constructive criticism.



After the Conference:

Talk to your child. Sit down with your child and tell him or her what you and the teacher discussed. Emphasize the positive things the teacher said. Remember that it's important for your child to feel positive about learning, the teacher, and the school.

Follow up. If there were important issues that need to be dealt with, such as finding a tutor or getting counseling for your child, make sure to follow up in writing with the teacher soon after the conference. Specify exactly what you discussed with the teacher, what steps will be taken, what your responsibilities and the school's responsibilities will be, and what the timetable is for action.

Remember the principal. If, after meeting with your child's teacher, you still feel like you have serious issues that weren't adequately addressed, set up a time to talk to the guidance counselor or principal to see what other options are available.

Follow through. Once you know what you can do at home to help your child succeed in school, make sure to actually do it. It's understandable that finding the time might be difficult, but remember – your child needs you.

MENU

November 10 - 14 2008

Monday **Breakfast** -Cinnamon-glazed french toast, cheese stick, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Pizza King/ham pizza, breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk

Tuesday: **Breakfast** -Egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - hot dog/bun or sloppy jo/bun, chips, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk

Wednesday: **Breakfast** - Pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -goulash or chicken patty/bun, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk

Thursday **Breakfast** -Breakfast pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** -goulash or chicken patty/bun, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk

Friday: **Breakfast** Egg and sausage on a biscuit, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - nachos/meat and cheese or totally tacos, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk

November 17 - 21, 2008

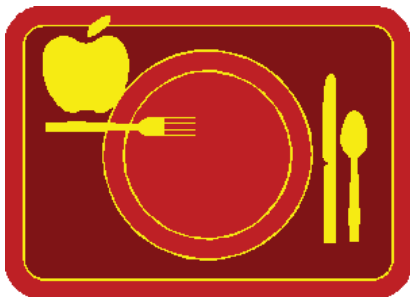
Monday: **Breakfast** - Waffle sticks, muffin, yogurt, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - Big Daddy's cheese pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk

Tuesday: **Breakfast** -Scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - corn dog nuggets or hamburg/bun, french fries, salad bar, fruit and milk

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -Pretzel/cheese, muffin, yogurt, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - Sausage gravy/biscuit or egg cheese omelet, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk

Thursday: **Breakfast** -Bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - hot turkey/biscuit w/mashed potaos&gravy, stuffing, dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk

Friday: **Breakfast** Hot Pocket, yogurt, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - grilled cheese sandwich or fish/bun, tomato soup, salad bar, fruit and milk



November 24 - 28, 2008

Monday: **Breakfast** - Mini pancakes, sausage, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - bagel pepperoni pizza, mozzarella sticks, muffins, salad bar, fruit and milk

Tuesday: **Breakfast** - Egg/cheese omelet, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -Taco or scalloped potato/ham, dinner roll, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -Pretzel/cheese, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** -chicken strips or chili, cornmeal muffins, hot vegetable, salad bar, fruit and milk

Thursday/Friday: **No School** - **ThanksGiving Break**

December 1 - 5, 2008

Monday: **Breakfast** - Oatmeal, cheese stick, granola bar, donut, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - Big Daddy's cheese pizza, cheese-filled breadstick, salad bar, fruit and milk

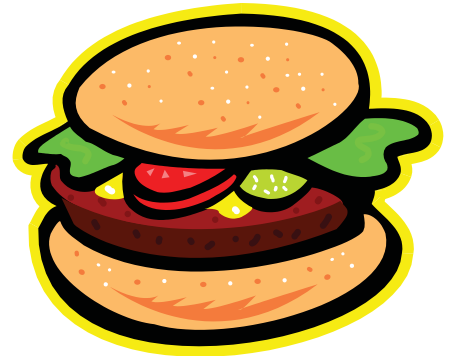
Tuesday: **Breakfast** -Scrambled eggs/ham, hash brown, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk.

Lunch - tater tot casserole or beef ravioli, peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad bar, fruit and milk

Wednesday: **Breakfast** -Pretzel/cheese, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Scrambled eggs/ham or breakfast pizza, hash brown, bagels, fruit bar and milk

Thursday: **Breakfast** -Bagel sausage pizza, cheese stick, granola bar, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk. **Lunch** - Spaghetti or chicken Caesar salad, garlic bread, salad bar, fruit and milk

Friday: **Breakfast** -Egg and sausage on a bagel, muffin, cinnamon roll, cereal, fruit, juice and milk **Lunch** - chicken quesadilla or macaroni/cheese dessert, salad bar, fruit and milk



Menus are subject to change, and no child shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

Log onto www.bealcityschools.net for the latest announcements and updates on school events, sports, and for teacher contact information.