

Sherrard Community Unit School District 200

*Calendar Year 2017
State of the District Report*



Presented to the Board of Education
by Superintendent Alan Boucher

Things to Note for 2017

District Level

- Hired a new Matherville Principal – Jeff Shillinger
- Hired a new HS Assistant Principal – Matt Hutchins
- Hired a new part-time Special Education Director – Linda Goff
- Replaced the Student Support Specialist position with a School Resource Officer – Mike Mendoza
- A new school logo, crest, hashtag and motto were adopted for the district
- A new Strategic Plan was established by the district
- Six Board members attended the annual Board convention in November
- The District's Wellness Policy was updated and adopted by the Board
- Online student registration replaced mail-in registration – 99.7% compliance
- The Sherrard Academic Foundation inducted four new members into the Hall of Fame including:
 - Michael Hutchins, Sherrard High School Class of 1961
 - Dr. Larry Samuels, Winola High School Class of 1951
 - Diane Allen Baines, Winola High School Class of 1977
 - Larry Roberts, Winola High School Class of 1985
 - Dr. Michel Bel, Sherrard High School Class of 2000
- The staff participated in a trivia event to raise money for the Sherrard Academic Foundation
- The Sherrard Academic Foundation provided thousands of dollars in grants to classroom teachers
- The District added a District Journalist position
- Many veterans attended two Veteran's Day appreciation events at Matherville and the High School. Major General Michael Zerbonia was the guest speaker at the High School event.

Curriculum Related

- JH bell schedule was changed to coincide with the HS bell schedule
- Established a 3-year technology lease for teacher computers, lab computers, STV equipment, robotics equipment and heart rate monitors
- Free public internet access given in HS gym one for athletic and public events
- 100 heart rate monitors were purchased for use by the HS PE classes
- Preschool program changed from 3 full-day classes (47 students) to 4 half-day classes (62 students)
- Preschool students with special education IEPs mainstreamed into regular education program
- HS Teacher Brenda Gates was chosen by the Argus/Dispatch to receive the Master Teacher Award
- A new math curriculum called *Ready Mathematics* (published by Curriculum Associates) was adopted at the K-5 grade levels

Facilities and Transportation

- New stadium lights for football/track/soccer/band/cheer/dance
- Various concrete projects were completed at the school campuses
- Sections of the exterior walls at HS were tuck-pointed
- A major section of the Matherville roof was replaced
- The walk-in freezer and walk-in cooler at Matherville were replaced
- Numerous rooftop HVAC units were replaced at Matherville
- Two rooftop HVAC units were replaced at Winola Grade School
- The southwest ventilation fan unit in the HS gym was replaced

- Installed vestibules at Matherville Intermediate School and Sherrard Grade School
- Replaced a staff car used for professional development and school-related meetings
- Ended a car lease arrangement with a local dealership and transferred one of the newer staff cars to the driver's education program
- Purchased a new marching band trailer
- Purchased one 72 passenger school bus
- Purchased one mini-bus
- Replaced one of the 8-passenger vans
- Purchased a new dump trailer

Student Activities

- In the spring, the HS students performed the musical, *Oklahoma!*
- In the fall, the HS students performed the comedy play, *The Canterville Ghost*
- SGS raised \$1,000 to donate to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Relief Efforts
- The JH Student Council collected 12 boxes of food items for the Sherrard Food Pantry
- The FFA students planted a vegetable garden and donated more than a ton (2,282 pounds) of the harvested fresh produce to three area food pantries.
- Abby and Maggie Pope were the first Sherrard students to participate in the FFA band
- WGS raised over \$9000 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart Event
- The WGS fourth grade students in Mrs. Minch's class conducted a toy drive - featured by WQAD
- Girls basketball finished the year with a 28-4 record
- Girls basketball won its 7th straight IHSA Regional Championship
- Girls basketball won its first ever IHSA Sectional championship
- Girls basketball had a top 8 finish in the IHSA State Basketball Tournament.
- Girls basketball player Faith Anderson finished with over 1000 career points, first team all-state selection and finished 2nd in the 3-point shootout.
- All JH sports joined the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA)
- 7th and 8th grade girls basketball - Conference and Regional Champions
- Wrestling: Tyler Rolling and Jarrett Baily advanced to the IHSA State Tournament
- SHS Symphonic Band received a Division I Rating at IHSA Contest (top score)
- SHS Jazz Ensemble received a Division I Rating at IHSA Contest (top score)
- SHS Placed 8th in the state in their class for IHSA Band Solo & Ensemble
- SHS Placed 10th in the state overall for IHSA Music
- SJHS Jazz Band received a Division I at IGSMA State Contest
- SHS Marching Tigers placed 1st at the Geneseo Competition [First ever for SHS]
- SHS Marching Tigers placed 1st at the Metamora Competition [First ever for SHS]
- STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) Club started - Chris LaRoche and Lucas Fritch are the sponsors. The team took 4th place at a bridge building contest and continue to grow numbers and will be competing in robot contests
- GSA (Gender/Sexualities Alliance) started by students - Ellen Garrity is the sponsor
- Anime club started - Chris LaRoche is the sponsor
- Girls Track won some big meets including the Rockridge Invite

- Girls Track: Caroline Dochterman (Pole Vault), Brandi Crawley (Shot Put), 400m Relay (Khasi Whiting, Emma Hofmann, Brandi Crawley, Ashleigh Adamson), 800m Relay (Brandi Crawley, Allison Young, Emma Hofmann, Ashleigh Adamson) and 1600m Relay (Ashleigh Adamson Allison Young, Jade Mathis, Emma Hofmann) all qualified for the IHSA State Track Meet
- Boys Track: Nick Shea, Billy McAtee, Cole Viager, and Sam Neal qualified for the IHSA State Track Meet in the 100m relay event
- Hosted Boys IHSA Baseball Regional Tournament
- Boys advanced to the Regional Basketball Championship
- Updating athletic records and athletic touch screens to have the most up-to-date records
- HS Book club started by Amanda Fritch
- Girls Golf won IHSA Regional Championship
- Golfer Nicki Schmitt finished 7th at the IHSA State Tournament
- Boys Golf advanced to sectionals
- Hosted Girls Volleyball Regional
- Had a 99% retention rate in our fall sports and students finished with a 3.4 GPA average in all activities
- Trophy case was cleaned out and now represents the best of Sherrard highlighted by the 4 state trophies

Status on Finance

- Our Financial Profile Rating is 3.55 on a 4-point scale garnering ISBE's highest rating of "Recognition." (see attachment 1). This rating is slightly lower than last year's rating because our three major funds (Ed, O&M and Transportation) collectively ended in the red.
- We have a strong cash reserve (see attachment 6)
- The District started receiving Rock Island sales tax money in November (approximately \$15,000/mo.)
- We currently have one bond of approximately 6 million dollars. Our debt payments are approximately one million dollars a year (see attachment 2). Our bond is comprised of the building referendum of 1999 and the health life safety work of the past few years. The 1999 buildings will be paid off next year. At that point, the remaining bonded debt will be for the health-life-safety work.
- The overall 2017-2018 budget is about \$180,000 in the red (see attachment 3). It is our goal to underspend this year's budget so we can finish in the black or close to it.
- Our expenditures should be at the 58.3% mark at this time of year. We are currently at 60.96% which is slightly better than last year's pace. Many expenses are front loaded at the beginning of the school year (e.g., purchasing buses, once-a-year payment on debt, supplies, etc.). As the year progresses and the spending slows down, our pace with the budget should get better.
- This year, we budgeted \$100,000 of General State Aid (GSA) for the O & M Fund. In the past, we used all of the GSA for the Ed Fund.

Areas for Needed Improvement

1. The O & M Fund continues to be a concern because the revenue doesn't cover the expenses and the cash reserve is small. We have transferred some O & M expenses to the Tort Fund, and I

recommend we continue to look for ways to transfer some more of the O & M expenses to the Tort Fund.

2. I recommend that we develop a risk management plan. The plan will justify the Tort expenses. Courts want to see a Risk Management Plan when plaintiffs complain about perceived abuses of Tort funds.
3. The District must continue to look for efficiencies to remain fiscally sound. Some of these decisions will not be popular with those who are affected. There may be some challenging pushback, but the District must remain strong and stay the course.

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.
- JH increased the number of students taking Adv. Reading and Adv. Math by 23%
- JH MAP scores- 99%ile in Math Fall to Winter Growth. 94%ile in Reading Fall to Winter Growth
- Marching Band PE waiver adopted for juniors and seniors
- Study hall requirement for HS students removed
- 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)
- HS juniors now take the SAT in the spring semester
- Ag Metal Fabrication II class added at HS
- Four year-long ag classes split into 2 semester classes for the sake of schedule flexibility
- 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.
- In the past few years, the science department has been implementing Next Generation Science Standards. This year is the first year to implement the new Illinois Social Science Standards.
- We are in the third year of the 1:1 computer initiative
- This fall, a new class was started for students to learn how to repair Chromebooks. The class has been a huge success.
- Our STV program continues to have strong student interest. This program is one of the highlights of the district.

Areas for Needed Improvement

1. Many of our instructional staff members (i.e., teachers, specialists and paraprofessionals) possess a strong urge to improve student performance. We need all staff members to possess this quality so we can experience synergy. The new ESSA requirements will demand this in the coming years.
2. More consistency among classrooms and subject areas is needed.

3. We need to greatly strengthen our approach to meeting the needs of gifted students at the elementary level.
4. Best practice states that professional development should be directly tied to the needs of the schools and it must be reinforced through many PD experiences and follow-up. Currently, the PD is left up to individuals and may or may not be directly tied to school needs. We must re-work the way we handle professional development.
5. The “tyranny of the urgent” keeps us from working on important tasks. The staff is pulled in many different directions by things that have little or nothing to do with student learning. Those who study this sort of thing point out that most of our efforts need to be focused on learning. We need to find ways to improve in this area.

Status on Students

- The student enrollment of 1,465 continues to decline (see attachment 4).
- The percentage of students who graduate in four years is 98% (state average 87%). The percentage of our graduating seniors who enroll in college: 71% (state 73%).
- JH implemented a universal behavior rewards system. - Referrals decreased 40% since last year
- Sixty-six HS students took college courses last year.
- Sixty-six HS students took one or more AP courses last year.
- The poverty rate is 31% which is slightly higher than the 28% poverty rate from six years ago.
- The student body is 90% white, 5% Hispanic, 3% bi-racial, 1% black and 1% Asian.
- The percentage of students identified with a disability is 11% which is below the state average of 14%.
- Ninety-three percent of the students attend school on any given day which is slightly lower than the 94% state average. Two percent of the students are chronically truant (state average is 11%)
- Currently, there are three students who are English Language Learners (ESL) - State average is 11%.
- Eight percent of our students move in or out of the district each year. The State average is 7%

Areas for Needed Improvement

1. Students with extremely disruptive behaviors continue to cause challenges for the staff. This is a problem that is resistant to improvement. We need to continue providing staff development in the area of behavior management and look for ways to work together on this important topic. Serious consideration should be given to having a behavior disorder classroom.
2. We have heard about the Greatest Generation, Baby Boomers, Generation X and Millennials. Today’s teenagers are now being referred to as “Generation M” which is a reference to media. Teens spend eight hours a day looking at media. They spend more time with media than they do sleeping and attending school. Oftentimes, they multi-task with media, and that has been found to have a negative effect on work quality. We educators need to have a full understanding of Generation M and craft our instruction in ways that allows the students to reach their full potential.

Status on Staffing

- We have 107 teachers with 106 being white and 73.8% being female. Forty-seven percent of the teachers have a master's degree. Six 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 (EL) and 19:1 (HS) whereas the state's ratio is 19:1 for all grade levels.
- Regarding teacher retention, 79% of the teachers return each year whereas the state average is 86%
- There are few quality applicants for our hard-to-fill certified positions.
- There are few applicants for all of the non-certified positions.
- This is the final year of a 3-year contract with the SEA. Negotiations will begin soon.

Areas for Needed Improvement

1. I am proud of our staff. I am constantly amazed about the fantastic things I hear about their work. They are worthy of much higher pay, but our financial constraints don't allow for salaries that compete with the city schools. We must continue to be fiscally disciplined so we can support those we entrust with our community's children.
2. Our district will improve if we all continue to learn and grow. We must prioritize staff meaningful staff development.

Status on Transportation

- The transportation department continues to be strong.
- Our bus facilities and our bus fleet are in good shape. This is an area of strength.
- We have made significant upgrades to the vehicle fleet in the past several years. This is an important improvement because many of the vehicles were getting old and becoming unreliable.
- The box truck is being used by the STV program.
- The third mini-bus has alleviated some of the driver pressure for activities.

Areas of Needed Improvement

1. The need for additional drivers remains critical. Raising the sub driver pay by three dollars per hour has helped a lot, but now we are short on regular route drivers.
2. At some point in the future, it would be good to finish the task of paving the bus parking area. The potholes, mud, and dust are a nuisance.
3. Our current practice of replacing 2 buses a year must continue if possible. Last year, I recommended that one of the purchased buses be a mini-bus to take some pressure off finding drivers for evening activities. One of our mini-buses is getting old, so I have the same recommendation for the upcoming school year.
4. For the past three years, we have purchased a new staff car; I recommend we purchase another car to replace one of the aging staff cars.
5. I recommend we come up with a system of signing bonuses and finder fees as a means to find more drivers.

6. I recommend we establish a system for paying coaches to drive their own events as a means to have drivers for evening and weekend activities.

Status on Facilities

- Facility Projects during 2017 include

New athletic field lights	Vestibules at SGS and MV
New roof at MV	New rooftop HVAC units at MV and WGS
New walk-in freezer at MV	Various concrete projects completed
Tuck-pointing at the HS	New Exhaust Fan in SW corner of HS gym
- Our facilities continue to be among the best in the area.
- The wind turbine continues to have problems. At the end of September, our maintenance company, Aero, went out of business. We now use the turbine manufacturer’s maintenance workers for repairs (Vestas). They have done quite a bit of work on the turbine since October and now the turbine is functioning again. The Vestas representatives insist that we will have better turbine performance now. We’ll wait and see if it is true.
- 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.

Areas of Needed Improvement

1. The buildings are looking cleaner nowadays, but we can do more to make everything shine.
2. The bids for a new wrestling room and weight room are going to be opened in the next few weeks. I believe strongly that these additions are needed. The timing is right and our programs will be safer and more effective if the bids are approved.
3. There numerous building projects I would like to recommend. Here is a brief description of each

New hallway carpeting for JH/SH	New greenhouse at HS
More staff parking behind the HS	More parking in front of the HS
New landscaping at each building	Renovate science rooms
4. As a part of the Strategic Plan, a ten-year facility plan is being developed to ensure all buildings are up-to-date and well-maintained.

Summary

There are many reasons to be excited about Sherrard School District. The District’s long tradition of achievement and excellence continues. There are many distracting challenges that pull us away from our mission on a daily basis, but we will stay the course and push through to higher levels of excellence. The Board of Education is child-focused and it cares about creating a district that is the envy of other communities. Our Strategic Plan is off to a great start. We will see many things come to fruition in the next year and our district will be stronger than ever.

Tigers Today – Transforming Tomorrow
#SherrardRoars

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
2016	3.63

Sherrard’s 2017 Financial Profile Score: 3.55

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. We have one more annual payment of \$855,000 that is due in December of 2018. 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.
- Our Financial Profile score is negatively impacted because of the debt. In the next year or two, the debt amount will go below the penalty point. At that time, it is hoped that our Financial Profile Rating will have a perfect score of 4.0.

District Financial Overview 2017-2018 Budget

	Budget Revenue	Budget Expense	Difference
Ed Fund	11,370,393	11,439,580	(69,187)
O & M Fund	1,018,082	1,174,450	(156,368)
Transportation Fund	1,096,312	878,370	217,942
Bond Fund	1,050,460	1,050,460	-
IMRF/FICA Fund	568,758	497,875	70,883
Sales Tax Fund	340,000	100,000	240,000
Working Cash Fund	78,076	-	78,076
Tort Fund	479,891	445,000	34,891
Health/Life/Safety Fund	78,076	675,000	(596,924)
	16,080,048	16,260,735	(180,687)

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
2017	1465	-4

PreK			59	
K	53	52	105	6 sections
1	44	42	86	4 sections
2	57	50	107	6 sections
3	60	38	98	5 sections
4	53	67	120	6 sections
5			106	
6			123	
7			90	
8			103	
9			115	
10			118	
11			118	
12			117	

Winola annexation took place in the fall of 1988.

High enrollment was in the 1997/98 school year. Since then, the enrollment has decreased 524 students. That is an average decrease of 26 students per year. We have lost 305 students since 2006.

PARCC Results District Level

Domain	Year	% Proficiency	% Exceeded	% Met	% Approached	% Partially Met	% Did Not Meet	(N)
District	2017	37.2	4.7	32.5	32.4	18.8	11.6	968
District	2016	36.6	5	31.6	29	22.8	11.5	1156
District	2015	37.1	3.3	33.8	29.9	23.2	9.9	1554
State	2017	34.2	5	29.2	28	22.4	15.6	1319949
State	2016	33.4	4.5	28.9	27.9	23.1	15.7	1534898
State	2015	33	4.4	28.6	28.4	24.2	14.4	1965770

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	
2017	8,239,239	

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
2017	15,089,262	8,649,621	5,677,659	761,982

Note state revenue for 2017 is \$1,494,791 less than it was in 2007

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
2017	14,781,640	