

Election 2022

FAIRVIEW PARK

Levy renewal focus of online school meeting

By **BRIAN GEORGE**

School leaders discussed Issue 7 and other district issues at an online town hall on Oct. 24. They reminded viewers that renewing the school issue on Tuesday would not raise taxes.

Superintendent Keith Ahearn and Treasurer Michael Showalter led the quarterly update with the public through Facebook live.

They reiterated that the levy pays salaries, provides district resources and day-to-day operational expenses. The only change is if voters approve it, the levy will not be back on the ballot for 10 years, instead of the five years it is now.

“School levies and finance can be complicated,” Ahearn said. “But the money generated is a fixed dollar amount.”

The school district received its report card for the 2021-2022 school year from the Ohio Department of Education on Sept. 15 that they were proud to share. The state reviews five categories using a star rating instead of a traditional letter grade. Fairview Park City Schools received 5/5 ratings for “Progress,” how well students are improving, and “Gap Closing,” which measures the reduction in gaps among student subgroups. It received four out of five stars in “achievement,” “graduation rate” and “K-3 literacy.”

The district, which has 1,527 students, had a 95.9% graduation rate and a 93.2% attendance rate.

“We’re truly proud of these ratings and the hard work of our students and staff,” Ahearn said.

The district sent an engagement survey about safety and communications to families at the end of October. It helps the school gather more information on perceptions of student engagement and provides data for administration and teachers.