

**OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT  
OCTOBER 12, 2022**

In accordance with the bylaws, the OBSPS Chair presents this annual written report to the Board of Trustees and makes it available to the general membership. The following report reviews the activities, decisions and other such information deemed important to the operations of the Society. Activities and meetings occurring this past 12 months included:

- Due to a lack of / limited activity, as well as a surge of the Covid-19 virus in Ohio and Clark County, the January 12, 2022 and April 13, 2022 Trustee meetings were cancelled. The July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was held as scheduled, making it the only “official” meeting of 2022.
- We received notification on November 29, 2021 that the Society was again awarded a grant from the Della Selsor Trust for calendar year 2022. This year’s grant is in the amount of \$1,000 (an increase from the \$800 awards received in the past). Funds will be used for postage, webpage work and brochures. As in the past, the Society continued to work with Digital Graphics to maintain and update these items.
- On December 14, 2021, Scott Suther and I met with BlindEye Restoration to begin the restoration process of the Main Entrance doors and surrounding windows. As in the case of the classroom windows and door, these items were removed and taken to BlindEye’s place of business, and the building properly secured.
- We received notification on December 17, 2021 that the Society was (again) awarded a grant from The Turner Foundation. This year’s grant is in the amount of \$2,500, which is an increase from the \$1,000 awards received in the past. Proceeds from this grant were designated towards the restoration costs of the Main Entrance doors and the windows surrounding the entrance way.
- On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the restored Main Entrance doors and surrounding windows were installed by BlindEye Restoration. As with the restoration of the SE classroom windows and door, the renovation and installation has made a marked improvement of the foyer area.
- On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Vice Chair Cyndie Gerken (once again) submitted a grant application to the Della Selsor Trust. The request is for \$2,850, for the purpose of continuing to update our web site, print/mail brochures, and possibly produce invitations to a future Open House.
- On June 13<sup>th</sup>, Tecumseh Local School District held an auction of unused and excess supplies, equipment, and miscellaneous items. This included nearly all materials and supplies that were being stored in the OB building. With exception of building maintenance items stored in the maintenance office (the NW classroom in OB), the entire building (for the most part) has been emptied.

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- In conjunction with the renovation of the high school parking lot, excess asphalt grindings were spread along front and side of the OB building, to aid in the maintenance of the front lot. This will not only enhance the parking area for OB, but also provides enhanced parking and staging of buses, on the western edge of the building. We would like to thank the Administration for this improvement, especially Brian Dixon, Director of Facilities & Safety.
- On July 6<sup>th</sup>, Cyndie Gerkin, Scott Suther, Sharon Leathley and myself met with Susan Carey, Executive Director of The Springfield Foundation at the OB building. Ms. Carey toured the facility, and was given a brief history of OBSPS, as well as our renovation efforts to date. During the visit, we outlined that we “may” be proceeding with another classroom renovation (that being the SW classroom). Ms. Carey indicated that there could be potential grant funds available from The Foundation, to assist with that project.
- During the July 13, 2022 OBSPS meeting, Alec Ashbaugh was elected as Trustee. Alec replaces the unexpired seat vacated by Ken Strickland, who (regrettably) resigned due to his relocating to California. Alec’s term will expire on October 31, 2024.
- In preparation for a grant application to The Springfield Foundation, an updated estimate for the restoration costs associated with the windows and exterior door in a classroom, a request for an updated estimate was made of BlindEye Restoration. That updated estimate was received on August 12, 2022. The total estimate is for \$14,650 (\$12,900 for windows; \$1,750 for the exterior door), and is “good” through August 12, 2023.
- On August 14<sup>th</sup>, Cyndie Gerkin submitted a grant application to The Springfield Foundation. The amount of the request is for \$11,720. Proceeds from this grant would go towards restoration costs of the windows and exterior door in the SW classroom.
- On September 4<sup>th</sup>, Cyndie Gerkin submitted a grant application to the Turner Foundation. The amount of the request is for \$11,720. Proceeds from this grant would go towards restoration costs of the windows and exterior door in the SW classroom.

As year-end 2022 approaches, we continue to look for potential financial opportunities, in hopes of furthering our renovation efforts. While greatly appreciated, grant opportunities and donations have been minimal, especially in relation to the overall picture of what will be needed to see the project to fruition. As we enter into the 15<sup>th</sup> year since the inception of this organization, and given the continued “seniority” of the group, I believe that we are approaching a critical crossroads. In my opinion, it will most certainly be a time for introspection for all.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Leathley, Chairperson  
OBSPS Board of Trustees