



Community Survey Sheds Light on Bond Issue Needs

This past January, a phone survey was conducted by Triad Research Group of 500 voters regarding the schools and facility needs. The individuals surveyed represented a cross section of registered voters with and without children in both North Royalton and the section of Broadview Heights in the North Royalton School District. Results were reported to the community on March 13 during a SCENE meeting and continue to be reviewed by the board and administration to determine next steps.

"The survey results validated the work and recommendations of the Shape Our Schools Future Committee. Our communities agreed with the priorities of the plan - to renovate versus build new, to make our buildings safer, to update our science labs,

and to increase and enhance our ability to use technology," said Superintendent Ed Vittardi. "We have a pressing need to protect the investment our residents have made in our facilities. We have an obligation to provide our students with the same learning opportunities as those students in other communities with outstanding schools. The time to do so is now."

Results showed:

- ✓ 91% of the voters have a positive opinion of the quality of education in the North Royalton Schools.
- ✓ Nine-in-ten voters also said they are very or somewhat informed about the schools.
- ✓ Two-fifths get their school information from the Royalton Recorder (42%).
- ✓ Well over half said they would support the schools' \$54.3 million bond issue.

- ✓ There is potentially a 7-point increase in support if the bond issue was reduced to \$49 million.
- ✓ 69% agreed that the schools do a good job with the tax money they receive.
- ✓ Voters supported the bond issue because the buildings need updating, education is important, and they have children in the schools.
- ✓ Bond issue support was more than 50% among every demographic group.
- ✓ Over half said the district should add on to the elementary schools while a third said to continue to rent space.
- ✓ There is more evidence that voters want safe and up-to-date schools. 79% said education and technology have changed since the schools were built 50 years ago and North Royalton needs to update its schools.
- ✓ When asked, eliminating the bus garage and locker projects from the overall plan gained additional support of the community.

North Royalton Middle School Students Take First Place in "Equation" Math Competition

On Tuesday, January 26, eight area schools brought more than 100 students to the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County's "Equations" competition. The event took place at The Harry E. Eastridge Professional Development Center and featured some of the brightest 8-14 year olds in our region.

"Equations" is a very challenging Mathematics game played in classrooms around the country and teaches students the critical problem-solving abilities needed to recognize and apply fundamental concepts. It creates a rich problem-solving interaction filled with complex strategy, bluffing, and intrigue.

ESC Director of Gifted Education Wayne Gibson said the kids always like to get together with each other and challenge other school districts in this academic competition.

When the competition concluded, North Royalton City Schools performed very well, finishing in first place compared to the rest of the districts.

North Royalton's Team 1 won first place for the 4th and 5th grade division. The team consisted of Alexandra Doehrmann (scorekeeper), Alexis Kovach (alternate),

Robert Burrows, Aidan Daiker, Nicholas DeAngelis, Thomas Layhew and Joseph Marousek. Team 2 won second place for the 6th grade division. The team consisted of Cassandra Lis, Jeffrey Kozik, Gerald Mastellone, Tanner Price, Tyler Willis, Drew Vargo (scorekeeper), and Matthew Piccolomini (alternate).

Individual winners from North Royalton City Schools included:

Joseph Marousek, Tied for First Place, 5th grade

Thomas Layhew, Second Place, 5th grade



North Royalton City Schools Launches VersaTrans e-link, a New Way to Track Busing Routes



North Royalton City Schools Transportation Department is launching VersaTrans e-link, that will allow parents the ability to look up the most accurate route information for their children throughout the school year. This is a new way for school families to access their individual bus routes.

The district is asking parents to log on to <http://versatrans.northroyaltonsd.org/elinkrp> and change their password as soon as possible to make sure everything is accurate. If it is not, they can call the transportation department at (440-582-9051) and they will assist. The link to the site also will be located on the homepage of the district website under "QUICK LINKS" as well as the Transportation page.

This student transportation online information system utilizes the latest routing technology to maintain accurate and up-to-date bus routing information. It will have "real time" data so that when the district adds or loses students, the time change and bus routes are altered.

Parents will use the primary phone number that they registered with the district as their

username and password the first time they log on. They are encouraged to set up a personal password at that point. If parents do not have access to a computer, they can call the transportation department or their child's building secretary who can look up the information for them and answer any questions they may have.

"Parents need to realize that these are computer-generated estimates and, as always, they should allow a bus to run five minutes early/behind the actual time of arrival," said Joe Marcinowski, Transportation Supervisor, North Royalton City Schools.

"North Royalton City Schools is always looking for ways to improve efficiencies and provide enhanced services to

our school families," said Superintendent Ed Vittardi. "Safety and well-being of our students is also top priority, especially in their transportation on our buses. This new personalized online system will keep parents updated throughout the year on their child's bus schedule and route. We now have a personalized approach vs. having everyone's routing schedule online."

Instructions For Parents:

Log on to: <http://versatrans.northroyaltonsd.org/elinkrp>.

After logging in for the first time, parents will change their password by clicking on the "Options" tab and then "Change User Profile." Fill in the info requested and click the "Update User Profile" tab.

Then go to the tab on the top titled: "Students" then

"View My Students" (their students will all show up).

After the initial log in, any time parents go back in, they would just go right to "Students" and then "View My Students."

North Royalton City Schools to Offer Safe School Helpline®

There are occasionally times when students or parents would like to provide information to a school but hesitate because they do not want their identities known. Providing open, direct communication with the community has long been a basic practice for North Royalton City Schools. The district now offers the Safe School Helpline®, another method to allow parents and community to provide input.

The Safe School Helpline® utilizes a unique, automated telephone service which allows callers to report an allegation, concern, or suggestion confidentiality and anonymously. The caller's identity is protected. He or she is never asked to give a name. The voice message is typed then faxed to school officials. In this way, no one except an operator in Columbus hears the voice. Calls are made through an 800 number. If the caller would prefer to speak with a live mental health counselor, they can do so by selecting option '3'. For those who prefer reporting via the internet, reports can be made by logging onto www.safeschoolhelpline.com.

The phone number is:
1-800-4-1-voice ext 359 or
1-800-418-6423 ext 359

Or text 66746 then type TIPS

Each call is assigned a case number. The caller can then call back to the Helpline to check the school's progress on the call, or to provide more information.

A caller may make a report 24/7 and the schools will be notified the next school day. Ordinarily, the principal of the school, where the alleged offense occurred, will investigate. Should a crime such as possession of a weapon be reported, the superintendent will be notified immediately, day or night, and he can contact the police department. As with any allegation against a student of staff member, no public action would be taken until guilt is proven.

"Recent polls show that parents' first concern about schools today is their child's safety. That is my concern as well," said Superintendent Ed Vittardi. "Fortunately, the North Royalton City Schools are very safe. However, no community is immune from the threats of violence and drugs that endanger schools nationwide. We are introducing this Safe School Helpline® to help prevent such actions."

Funding for this service is through dollars received from a safe and drug free school grant in cooperation with the City of Broadview Heights. "The North Royalton Wellness Committee has discussed various ways to keep our schools healthy and free of bullying and this is another step in that process," said Vittardi.

Safe School Helpline

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A New State Budget or Here We Go Again.....

by Richard McIntosh, Treasurer



Governor Kasich's long awaited revision of the method by which K-12 schools are funded was revealed as part of his State budget proposal for the biennium encompassing the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 fiscal years. How does the Governor's proposal affect our District? The short answer is we do not know yet.

The Governor's budget does change the discussion somewhat. For the past several years, there has been a focus put on trying to determine what it costs to provide an adequate and equitable education for students across the state. The Governor's budget sidesteps that question and instead focuses on how to distribute state aid in a manner that attempts to reduce the disparities between wealthy and poor districts. The yardstick used to determine the wealth of a particular district is property value per pupil.

The proposal also has factors that provide districts additional funding based on

- the federal adjusted gross income per pupil,

- special education costs incurred by the district,
- the number of students that are English language learners,
- the number of student considered economically disadvantaged,
- the number of students requiring early childhood access,
- and the number of students identified as gifted and talented.

Finally, there is a provision that guarantees no district will receive less in fiscal 2014 or 2015 than it received in fiscal 2013.

So, why do we not know if the Governor's proposal will benefit our district? The simulations calculated by individual district reflects our district receiving the same level of funding in fiscal 2014 as fiscal 2013 then receiving a \$400,000 increase in fiscal 2015. The unknown is that approximately 32% of our state funding or \$1.4 million that we are receiving now for transportation, preschool and career tech funding was removed from the simulations and we do not know if those components will be added back at the same level.

Theoretically, a funding formula should result in each district receiving their share of the pot based on their district's numbers being entered into the formula without further manipulation. There are 612 districts in the state. In the second year of the budget, 382 districts must have an arbitrary amount added to their total (the guarantee mentioned above) so that they will not receive less money in fiscal 2015 than received in fiscal 2013.

The Governor's initial budget proposal is just the first step in a lengthy process that begins in February and results in a two year state budget that begins July 1. We are speaking with our legislators explaining how the budget affects our district and reminding them that our district is now receiving \$1.2 million less than we received in fiscal 2002 when we had 300 less students. How the final budget will shake out is anyone's guess so stay tuned because here we go again.

A Focus on the Technology Department

The North Royalton City Schools continue to improve and introduce many new technologies to our students in an effort to help them succeed in school and in the real world. None of this could be possible without the support of our community, administration, and technology staff.

Our technology staff consists of five talented gentlemen: John Nickell, Jason Fullington, Don Orszag, Eric Lechuk, and Tim Duman who work hard each day to make sure students and staff computers are up and running. The implementation of technology into the classrooms is accomplished by Dr. Susan Finelli, the district's curriculum facilitator. The district has more than 1,500 computers within classrooms and offices

as well as more than 170 iPads, and other tablets such as Kindle Fire. The use of technology within education is vital to students' success in their careers in the 21st century. It is also a vital tool to help convey the ideas and lessons they need to learn in a new and state-of-the-art manner.

From an early age, the North Royalton City Schools introduces computers to students beginning in Kindergarten. There are five computer stations within every kindergarten classroom for the teacher to use to reinforce skills and explore many resources. Students also are now using iPads during the course of the year. Starting in the first grade, students have time in the computer lab to learn skills from web browsing and

The technology department is not only responsible for the computers in the district, but email addresses, voicemail, district website, and the computerized Point of Sale system in our cafeterias. They also make sure all the LCD computer projectors and interactive white boards are operating in the classrooms. The department supports a multitude of technologies including Classroom Question Response systems, document cameras, and iPads. Students in grade three to eight are now assessed on computers and starting In 2014-15, all students will be a accessed on-line due to state testing mandates. Our technology department will continue to support this large scale requirement.

introduction to keyboarding. With the onset of all the resources available online, staff and students have access to many resources via the Internet. Every classroom has access and through media services, the district subscribes to INFOHIO that provides on-line databases, newspaper and magazine articles at their fingertips.

The North Royalton Board of Education recently adopted a "Bring Your Own Device" policy that gives teachers and students the ability to access the district's wireless Internet for educational applications using students' personal technology devices or district devices. Any classroom can now be a computer lab. There are a wide variety of lessons that teachers can accomplish using the wireless access. The technology department has been an integral part of the installation of the wireless Internet system, as well as supporting teachers accessing the wireless in their classrooms using I Pads, tablets, laptops, and student devices.



SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



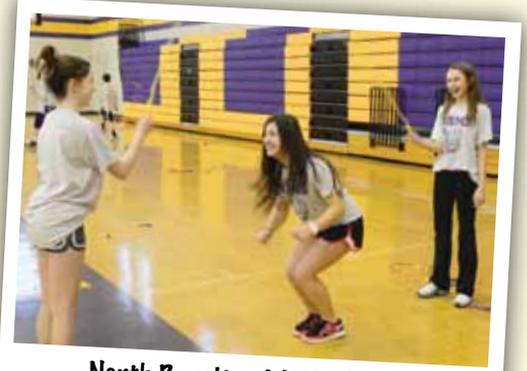
Albion Elementary Students Fill Baskets for Local Children

Students at Albion Elementary filled baskets for children and families at Guidestone, Ohio, formerly known as Berea Children's Home and Family Services, this past March. Guidestone, Ohio programs help children and families, from residential treatment to foster care. "The students of Albion donated numerous items from school supplies to board games, to fill 48 Easter baskets," said Cathy Javaras, counselor at Albion Elementary. Thirteen Albion Elementary Student Council representatives used their own recess time to distribute the baskets.



Royal View Elementary's Brailin' Buddies Band

At the March Board of Education meeting, board members and those in the audience were entertained by the school's Brailin' Buddies Band. Two of the students that perform in the band are visually impaired. Special thanks to Shane Litvak (recorder), Ava Hamilton (piano), and Gerry Mlachak (drums). The band's equipment manager is Luke Litvak. The band is under the direction of music teacher Laura Nary.



North Royalton Middle School 2013 Jump Rope for Heart

On January 29 and 30, students and staff took part in the annual Jump Rope for Heart and raised \$2,100 for the American Heart Association. Kids jumped rope and played basketball.

"I would like to thank the students and staff at NRMS for really stepping up to advocate for a great cause," said Health and Physical Education Teacher Mario Francescone. "I also would like to thank all the great area businesses that have donated items for our prize table for the students to purchase raffle tickets and try to win. This would not have been possible without their generosity."

2013 NRMS Jump-Rope-for-Heart Donors

More than \$1,600 of value in items were donated by: Chick-Fil-A (Strongsville location), Friday's (Strongsville), Applebee's (Strongsville), B-Spot (Strongsville), 3 Spot Bar & Grille (North Royalton), Subway (Paco's-North Royalton), Conrad's Auto Care (North Royalton), Best Buy (North Olmsted), Augie's Pizza (North Royalton), Angie's Pizza (North Royalton), Taco Bell (North Royalton), Mom's Deli (North Royalton), All-Sports Barbershop (North Royalton), Gearin-Up (North Royalton), Royalton Car Wash, Rito's Bakery, Music Connection-DJ (Owner Jim Rio), Hospitality Restaurants, Giant Eagle (North Royalton), Kent State University (Athletic Director Joel Nielson), The Cleveland Browns, NRMS PTA, NRMS Staff, and NRMS Student Council.



Valley Vista Tribe Day

Students at Valley Vista Elementary were excited to wear their Cleveland Indians' attire to school on April 8 in celebration of the Tribe's Opening Day!



Early Childhood Center Learns French

The North Royalton High School French 4 class visited the kindergarten classes at the Early Childhood Center to share their love of the French language. Both the high school and kindergarten students enjoyed their time together.

PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST
Campaign Kicks Off in North Royalton

In preparation of this year's graduation and prom season, the Partnership for a Healthy North Royalton (PHNR) is launching a "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" campaign throughout the communities of North Royalton and Broadview Heights. The campaign has been developed by Drug-Free Action Alliance.

"Parents Who Host Lose the Most" aims to educate parents about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen house parties and to increase awareness of and compliance with the state underage drinking laws. The law states that anyone

found guilty of providing alcohol to youth can face up to a \$1,000 fine and six months in jail, in addition to any civil action that can be brought as a result of damages or injury related to the offense.

Members of the PHNR committee will be sharing information on this important grassroots community partnership and awareness campaign throughout the months of April and May with the local media, parent groups, community and civic organizations, and chambers of commerce. Yard signs also will be distributed to homeowners in order to increase awareness of the campaign message.

A survey that was taken of North Royalton High School sophomores in December 2012 showed that:

- 52% of students reported attending a party within the past year where peers were drinking.
- 30% of students reported using alcohol within the last 30 days.
- 19% of students reported getting drunk within the last two weeks.
- 4% of students drove after drinking.
- 24% of students rode with a driver who had been drinking.

"We are asking our community to get involved in the Parents Who Host Lose the Most Campaign, and to provide consistent and well-defined behavioral boundaries for our young people," said North Royalton Board of Education Vice President Anne Reinkober.

Residents wishing to volunteer their time on the Parents Who Host the Most Campaign should contact Susan Welch, Director of Pupil Services, North Royalton City Schools at 440/582-9140 or Kirk Pavelich, Principal, Royal View Elementary at 440/582-9080.

The next PHNR community meeting is May 22 at 9 am at Royal View Elementary. For more information go to www.partnershipnpr.com or call 440/582-7834.

Partnership for a Healthy North Royalton (PHNR) is a coalition of individuals representing various groups within the community including local government, businesses, schools, and law enforcement. The mission of PHNR is to engage the North Royalton and Broadview Heights communities in a collaborative effort to identify and reduce tobacco, alcohol and drug use through targeted communication, education, and support services.