

Northeastern High School

March 22, 2017

A. AGENDA

- A1 Northeastern Local Board of Education met in Special session on Wednesday, March 22nd, 2017, at Northeastern High School, Room 36. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to review and discuss the results of the 2017 Data Survey by Fallon Research. Christopher James, President, called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M.
- A2 Roll Call: Mr. Christopher James, Present
 Mr. Jeff Caivano, Present
 Mr. Joel Augustus, Present
 Mrs. Jill Parker, Present
 Mr. Steve Schwitzgable Present

Others present were John P. Kronour, PhD, Superintendent; Denise Robinson, Treasurer; Shawn Blazer, Assistant Superintendent; Steve Linson, Director of Pupil Personnel; John Schmid, Director of Technology; Tim Nijak, Senior Accountant; and seventeen visitors.

B. Presentation of the 2017 Data Survey by Fallon Research

Dr. Kronour introduced Mr. Paul Fallon, of Fallon Research. Mr. Fallon gave a brief history of his work and background. He provided a PowerPoint presentation of the results of his survey.

The survey was conducted via telephone interviews performed by specially-trained opinion research interviewers on 300 randomly selected registered voters residing within the school district from February 27th to March 1st, 2017. The data presented is stratified so that the differences in vital characteristics, such as age, gender and geography are represented in proportion to their percentages of the district's electorate.

Mr. Fallon went over the study demographics which included age groups, parents/non-parents, high school area, party registration, gender, and zip code.

He gave the survey results for the question; Is the district going in the right direction or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?; which showed a 13% to 31% "net right direction" amongst four groups. Fifty-seven percent of parents believed the district was going in the right direction. He also showed the results of the views on the fairness of property taxes in the district. Thirty-nine percent thought taxes were too high while fifty-three percent felt they were pretty fair.

For the key performance measures of quality of education and managing the district's tax dollars most residents (62%) felt the district's quality of education was excellent or good while only forty percent of the residents rated the district's management of money/budget as excellent or good.

For the question; "Compared to the school buildings in other neighboring school districts, would you generally say that the Northeastern Local School District school buildings are better, about the same or not as good?"; fifty-seven percent of the residents felt the buildings were "not as good" as our neighboring districts with parents responding "not as good" eighty-one percent of the time.

Mr. Fallon was optimistic about the awareness level of the Board's desire to build new facilities because only fifty percent of the district has "informed awareness" of the issue. He believes this is an opportunity for the Board to frame the matter and shape critical first opinions about the idea. As to the assessment of the job the district has done to seek public input, fifty-six percent of the district says the Board/Administration has done poor or fair in seeking public input while only thirty-seven percent rated the district as excellent or good.

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The two different school facilities plans being considered (two preK-12 or two preK-8 and one high school) were presented to the residents and each plan was rated highly by the residents with the two preK-12 buildings garnering fifty-nine percent support and two preK-8 and one high school garnering fifty percent support. While this wide spread support was encouraging when asked to choose between the two different plans, the demographics of who supported which plan was very wide. Kenton Ridge High School area residents supported one consolidated high school building with fifty percent of their responses while Northeastern High School residents supported the two high school building plan with seventy-six percent of these residents. Mr. Fallon believes this may be a polarizing issue for the district. Furthermore, when asked where to locate a consolidated high school, there was no clear majority consensus.

Other issues covered in the survey included athletic facilities, priorities if new facilities are built, and retention of high quality teachers. The survey indicated that the community feels that the athletic facilities need to be repaired and upgraded. Priorities included reducing overcrowding, upgrading electrical systems for today’s technology, better security systems, new science labs, and better climate control systems.

Finally, the survey asked the residents if they would support levies to construct new facilities and this resulted in forty-three percent yes, forty-eight percent no, and nine percent unsure.

Mrs. Parker left the meeting at 4:52 P.M.

During the presentation and after there was much discussion amongst the Board, Mr. Fallon, and Dr. Kronour. This discussion resulted in Dr. Kronour and Mrs. Robinson reminding the Board that a decision needs to be made before the end of April (for the November ballot) if the district would like to secure the OFCC funding for this year. If no decision is made for a November levy, then the district will have to go back to the OFCC next year if they would like to be reconsidered.

C. ADJOURNMENT

Item 124-2017.

Mr. Augustus moved and Mr. Schwitzgable seconded to adjourn at 5:05 P.M., until the next regular meeting of the Board of Education. Roll Call: Ayes – Augustus, Schwitzgable, Caivano, James. Nays – None. Motion carried.

President, _____

Treasurer, _____