



NORTH TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NT SPIRIT

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools

Budget Edition
May 2012



Budget Vote and Board Election—Tuesday, May 15, noon—9 p.m.

Message from Superintendent Woytila

The Board, staff and I have completed our work on the 2012-2013 budget proposal. In May, it will be up to the community to adopt or reject it. It was a tough budget year that includes the closing of Gilmore School and a redistricting plan to ensure that the School District stays on track to right size as the population changes. Please take the time to study and vote on May 15. There is also a Proposition 2 which is **no cost** to the public. It is using the bus reserve that the voters approved to purchase buses as needed. In addition to this publication there is more budget detail from the past three months located on our website at www.ntschoools.org.

We only have a little more than two months left in this academic year. Please work with your children to remind them that while the weather is getting nicer and the days are getting longer the reality is there are many important assessments, Regents exams, and final projects that lie between now and June.

Budget Message from the Board President Frank DiBernardo

As in last year's economic climate, we as a district this year were faced with an unprecedented budget crisis. This crisis was not faced alone here in North Tonawanda, but across the whole state as financial aids were slashed once again at the state level as well as increased expenditure passed onto local school districts, as has



been reported throughout the budget year in news media outlets daily. We as a district were faced with a budget gap of approximately \$5 million when this process started several months ago. This gap was driven by increased expenses and decreased aid, \$1.6 million elimination of federal stimulus, \$300,000 of federal grants removed, \$880,000 increase in benefit liabilities, \$1 million in payroll contractual obligations and \$300,000 increase in BOCES expenses, among other mandated costs.

With this task we worked on the 2012-2013 budget with all stakeholders and have come up with a budget of \$64,752,895. This budget has a tax levy increase of 2.47% which equates to roughly \$631,000 in the proposed budget. In this budget we have received concessions from the teachers' and administrators' unions which resulted in approximately \$400,000 in savings. Also, due to this economic climate and decreasing enrollment projections, we were taxed with the decision of closing Gilmore School and redistricting which will help in the finances and population of this district moving forward. While staff layoffs and program reductions are part of this budget, it is a reminder of how important it is for all of us to continue to work together for providing the best education for our children within the economic climate faced everyday by all. We are also closing out the final phase of our \$48 million capital project which was started several years ago to improve the facilities and technology in this district.



Polling Takes Place at the Alumni Student Activity Center

Voting will take place from noon to 9 p.m. May 15 at the Alumni Student Activity Center located at 405 Meadow Drive.



Voter Qualifications

- You must be a citizen of the United States.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must be a resident of the school district for a period of 30 days immediately prior to the vote.



Superintendent Teaches Children

For some teaching is like riding a bike, once you learn how you never forget. Spruce Elementary School saw the proof of this when Gregory Woytila, our Superintendent, came to Spruce School and proceeded to demonstrate his mastery of educating children. As a reward to our teachers for being among the first to complete the Unit plans required by New

York State for the new Core Curriculum, the children in kindergarten

and fourth grade had a new teacher on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. Mr. Woytila wrote his own lesson plans for each classroom and then did his *magic*. He had the children enthralled during math lessons in



the fourth grade classrooms and reading/language arts lessons in the Kindergarten rooms. Mr.

Woytila will be in each building this year working with the students.

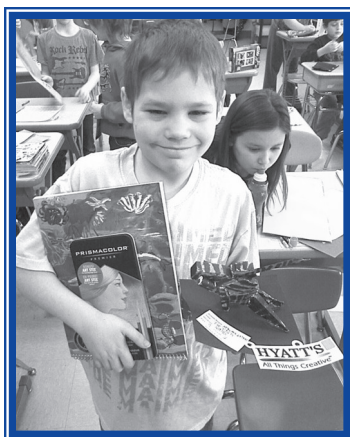
District Art Show

Reception

May 17

Alumni Center

6p.m. - 7:30p.m.



A special congratulations goes out to Sebastian DiTillio who took home the Hyatt's Art Award for his wooden fish sculpture. Sebastian is a 3rd grade student at Spruce Elementary School.

It was an international event at Ohio School as world travelers in grades 3 – 6 went "Around the World" with Math. Students and their parents gathered on March 15 for Ohio's Second Annual Family Math Night with a special globe-trotting theme. This night was a way for parents and children to talk and work together while learning.

Mathematical games and activities were created and implemented by the Ohio School Faculty. These games were meant to encourage communication and learning as students and parents worked together at math stations sharing their understanding of mathematics. Students got their passports filled as they traveled from room to room (or country to country).

Community Ed Aqua Mix Class

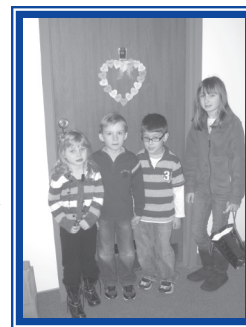


The current swim program was started up after the instructor took a similar class at the YMCA to get over her fear of water. She never

put her face under water and never will ask her students to. Deep end exercises are done, but there is always something to hold on to. The students that stay in the shallow end are given separate activities. Anything that floats is used as resistance and kick boards, hand weights, noodles and play balls are all used for muscle conditioning. The water takes over 80% of your weight off your frame and the water holds joints in place during the activities.

Bishop Gibbons Visit

Drake student reading buddies from grade 6 and kindergarten recently worked together on a community project. They collaborated to make beautiful Valentines. They then traveled to the Bishop Gibbons apartment complex to hand out Valentines and candy to the residents on February 14. Both the residents and the students enjoyed the experience. We look forward to more visits in the future. Shown here with some Valentine artwork are Mya Maher, Luke Kolbe, Kaden Reusch, and Camryn Porter.



Family Math Night



Parents also had the opportunity to work on math activities with their children in a supportive and fun environment. It is our hope that parents realized from this Family Math Night that math is more than memorizing rules and algorithms. Everyone went home with engaging activities to encourage and further math at home. A special thanks to O.H.I.O. for graciously funding Family Math Night. We are also appreciative for the donation of goodies from Wegmans and McDonalds.



NT Community Health Fair

The North Tonawanda City School District had their very first Community Health Fair this past March. The theme was "GET UP AND GET MOVING" as Mr. Touma so nicely demonstrated. The event was a huge success. There were over 50 vendors and 800 community members that participated in the night's festivities which were held at the North Tonawanda Middle School. Students seemed to really enjoy the bounce houses, face painting and hair tinseling.

Vendors from all over the community set up interactive booths to promote a healthier lifestyle and get students and parents involved in a wide range of activities.



Students were able to participate in a variety of activities that got them up and moving, reminding students how much fun exercise can be. There were Zumba and Jindo instructors, the Bills athletic trainer and much more.

Students and adults were able to see a variety of presentations throughout the night. The North Tonawanda Police K9 unit was quite a show. Students and community members alike enjoyed the activities and left with lots of free giveaways, raffles and valuable health information.



High Honors for Two Music Students at Drake and Spruce

Thomas Boyer, alto saxophone from Drake, and Tyler Yim, trumpet from Spruce, participated in the 2012 Niagara County Music Educators Association Elementary All-County Band on March 2 and 3 at Wilson Central School. They were selected from hundreds of students from all over Niagara County for this honors band because of their outstanding solo audition in December. Congratulations to them both for their hard work and dedication, and proudly representing North Tonawanda at the All-County Festival.

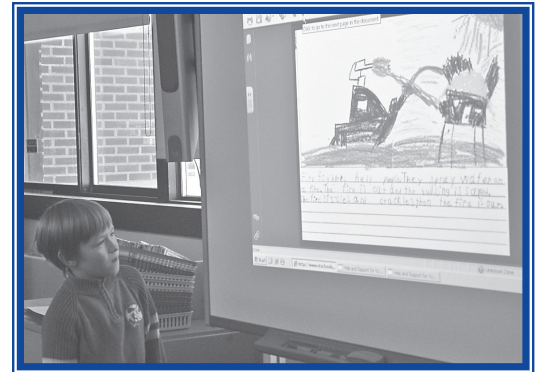


Band Students at Meadow and Gilmore Prepare for Recital

Grades 5 and 6 band students are busy preparing and learning new songs for the Remember Ryan Recital. The recital will be presented at Meadow School on May 9 at 2 pm and 7 pm and at Gilmore School on May 11 at 2 pm and May 14 at 7 pm. This musical event honors and thanks the *Remember Ryan Foundation Grants Program* for their generous assistance to the North Tonawanda instrumental music program. The recital will feature students performing solos, duets, trios, small ensembles and full band selections. The public is invited to attend.

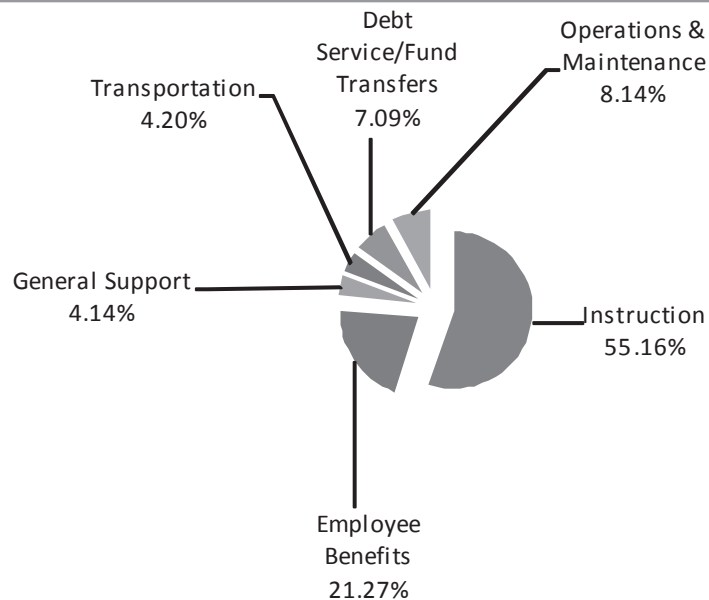
Twenty First Century Authors

Mrs. Hempel's second grade class at Gilmore School is learning that there is more than one way to publish a book. The children have been learning about different nonfiction genres in their library media center, one being "informational" books. Children worked in small groups and chose a book by Gail Gibbons, a well known children's author who has written and illustrated numerous informational books on a wide variety of topics. The children were challenged to "read and learn" three things about their chosen topic, and to make a page for a class book. Rather than binding the pages together they were scanned and placed into a Power-Point presentation, thus creating an e-book entitled "Just Like Gail Gibbons".



The students proudly shared their page during their library class using a smartboard. They will also be given the chance to view the e-books made by other second graders in the district at Spruce School and Ohio School by using the computers in the library media center. The books may be viewed by visiting Ms. Hasson's library page on the district website at all three schools and following the "E-Book" link.

The students proudly shared their page during their library class using a smartboard. They will also be given the chance to view the e-books made by other second graders in the district at Spruce School and Ohio School by using the computers in the library media center. The books may be viewed by visiting Ms. Hasson's library page on the district website at all three schools and following the "E-Book" link.

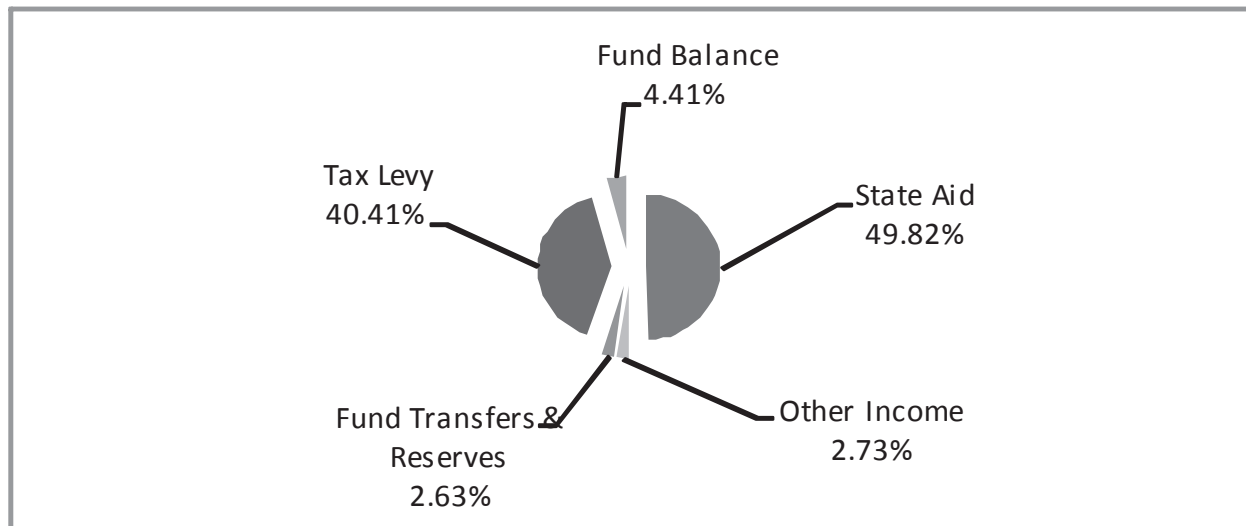
**Expenditures****PROPOSITION #1****VOTE ON BUDGET**

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tawanda City School District for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$64,752,895 and for the purposes shown in the statement of estimated expenditures adopted by the Board of Education, be and the same hereby is approved and the amount thereof shall be raised by a levy of a tax upon the taxable property of the school district, after first deducting the monies available from State Aid and other sources provided by law.

	2011-2012	2012-2013	% of Total Budget
Instruction	\$35,885,695	\$35,717,250	55.16%
Includes: K-12 Instructional program supervision, curriculum development, BOCES, special education programs, occupational education, interscholastic athletics, co-curricular programs, health services, library media, computer instruction, and pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$13,306,985	\$13,771,889	21.27%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, Social Security and Worker's Compensation.			
General Support	\$2,630,962	\$2,678,825	4.14%
Includes: Legal services, personnel, insurance, school board, refund on property tax, BOCES administrative charges, administrative and financial services, public information, central data processing and auditing.			
Transportation	\$2,700,393	\$2,720,987	4.20%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Services/Fund Transfers	\$4,491,943	\$4,593,113	7.09%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects, energy conservation projects and pension bonds. Also, the District's share of special education summer programs and reconstruction of the bus garage parking lot.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$5,460,162	\$5,270,831	8.14%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$64,476,140	\$64,752,895	100%



Revenues



	2011-2012	2012-2013	Change from 2011-12
State/Federal Aid	\$33,727,445	\$32,262,629	-\$1,464,816

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2012-13 school year, it is projected to be 49.8% of all revenue. Last year it was 52.3%. This year, the aid decreased by \$1,464,816. This decrease was primarily related to federal stimulus funds of \$1,617,150 which is no longer offered to school districts. Other aid to the District increased by \$150,000.

Other Income	\$1,747,186	\$1,767,186	\$20,000
--------------	-------------	-------------	----------

Any income received by the School District other than State Aid, Fund Balance or Tax Levy is included under this heading. Examples of other income would be: rentals, interest earnings, payments in lieu of taxes, refunds of prior year's expenses, gifts, fees, tax penalties, commissions and athletic event gate receipts. The District is implementing revenue enhancement programs which will generate additional revenue for the district.

Reserves	\$967,024	\$1,700,000	\$732,976
----------	-----------	-------------	-----------

The District maintains Reserve Funds in accordance with guidelines established by the State of New York and adopted and accepted by the Board of Education. With the significant financial issues currently affecting districts across the State, and North Tonawanda specifically, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available.

Tax Levy	\$25,534,485	\$26,165,695	\$631,210
----------	--------------	--------------	-----------

This is the amount to be raised through local property taxes. The Board of Education desires to keep any increases in the levy as low as possible. For the 2012-13 school year, it is anticipated that there will be an increase of 2.47% in the tax levy set by the Board of Education. This amount stays within the legislation that was adopted recently by the State which enacted a Tax Cap threshold for each school.

Fund Balance	\$2,500,000	\$2,857,385	\$357,385
--------------	-------------	-------------	-----------

Funds which are budgeted but unexpended at the end of the budget year, and revenues which are realized in excess of those budgeted for the year, are available at the end of one fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance. \$2,500,000 from fund balance was appropriated in 2011-12 and there is projected to be \$2,857,385 appropriated in 2012-13, a 14% increase.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$64,476,140	\$64,752,895	\$276,755
--------------------------	--------------	--------------	-----------

**North Tonawanda City School District Budget Notice**

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2011-12 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2012-2013 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2012-13 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount	\$64,476,140	\$64,752,895	\$64,139,525
Increase/decrease for the 2012-13 School Year		\$276,755	\$(333,615)
Percentage increase (decrease) in each proposed budget		0.43%	(0.52%)
Change in the Consumer Price Index		3.20%	
School Tax Levy Limit		\$26,147,345	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (without permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)		\$26,129,505	\$25,552,325
Total Permissible Exclusions		\$36,190	
Proposed School Year Tax Levy (including permissible exclusions to the School Tax Levy Limit)	\$25,552,325	\$26,165,695	\$25,552,325
Administrative component	\$5,885,882	\$5,956,599	\$5,893,377
Program component	\$47,258,113	\$47,829,415	\$47,321,767
Capital component	\$11,332,145	\$10,966,881	\$10,924,381

1 Statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2012-13 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

- Eliminate non-contingent items: student supplies, community use of buildings and grounds, certain equipment, certain salary increases; provide for equipment repair and contingent expenses.

BASIC STAR Exemption Impact

2 Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposed for the 2012-13 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Tax Savings	\$630.68

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2012-2013 by the qualified voters of the North Tonawanda City School District, Niagara County, New York, will be held at 405 Meadow Drive in said district on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Alumni Student Activity Center, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting machine.

- 1 Provide a statement of assumptions made in estimating the contingency budget pursuant to section 2023 of Education Law.
- 2 The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



NT Scholar Athlete Teams

To qualify for the Scholar Athlete Awards Program, a varsity team, using a designated number of members, must have an overall grade point average of 90% or above. North Tonawanda has had consistently high performance results. Hundreds of student athletes have been told that being on a team enhances academic performance. They know that the blending of the two is designed to help them become the best product our educational system can provide.

Winter 2011-2012 Team Awards

Boys Basketball 92.321
Boys Swimming & Diving 92.993
Girls Bowling 93.204
Girls Basketball 95.387
Wrestling 90.412
Ice Hockey 94.439
Boys Bowling 90.952
Girls Indoor Track 93.962



Sports Physicals

Mark your calendars! Sports physicals for **high school students** will be held June 5 and 6 from 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm in the nurse's office. Sports physicals for **8th grade** students will be held June 7 and 8 at the Middle School in the nurse's office from 8:00 am -10:30 am. Sign-ups for these dates will not begin until after May 5. Sports physical dates for **6th and 7th** graders will be announced at a later date.

Reminder: We CANNOT accept a physical from your private physician. Physicals must be performed by our Board approved physician group.

NORTH TONAWANDA STUDENTS COMPETE IN BRIDGE DESIGN CONTEST

The students in the *Academy of Engineering and Architecture* recently competed against students from other schools in a Bridge Design contest. The competition is held every year at Classic V Restaurant in Amherst and is sponsored by the ABCD WNY Chapter of Civil Engineers. The competition has been held every year since 1983.

The students spent about five weeks researching, designing and building bridges out of balsa wood. Every bridge had to meet certain criteria such as length, height, width and only balsa wood could be used to build it. To determine the winners each bridge was weighed in grams and then put on a compression device that pulled down on the bridge's roadbed to test its strength. It was an exciting completion; many of the bridges "blew up" as pieces of balsa broke off the bridges under the massive amounts of wood. A formula was used to determine the efficiencies of the bridge; weight of the bridge compared to the amount it can hold. There were 56 bridges entered from 7 different schools with NT winning the competition for the second year in a row with a bridge built by Seniors, Will Swart, Ryan Marriott and Mike Grimaldi. Their bridge held 117 pounds but only weighed 44 grams. Other NT students placing in the top 10 were the teams of Curtis Swan, Travis Sikora, the brother team of Zach and Nick Nolan along with Steve and Mike Sass. Cara Porto and Elise Wilcocks placed 6th. Devon Johannes and Dominick Shrock came in 8th place with Maya Welch and Brittany Wurl finishing 10th.



Many other students in the *Academy of Engineering and Architecture* entered the contest and are already talking about next years' event and how they can improve their designs.

Coins for TCCO from NTHS



Students in the two North Tonawanda Individual Community Education (NTICE) classes conducted a fundraiser for the Twin Cities Community Outreach (TCCO). The NTICE classes, taught by Susan Szerbinski and Roseann Arida, collected pennies and spare change from their fellow NT High School students and staff during lunch periods from March 5-9. Students in the NTICE classes counted and rolled the coins. The total amount raised was \$212.13.

Roberta Seekins, Treasurer of TCCO, said "What a pleasant surprise to receive this donation from the high school students. It is wonderful to know that our young people are concerned about the work of the three TCCO agencies."

The NTICE classes have been involved with NT Meals on Wheels for over 20 years. Between five to eight students, along with teachers, come to the Meals on Wheels one day each week to unpack deliveries of canned goods and packaged food and stock the storeroom shelves. Housekeeping chores such as mopping floors, vacuuming carpets and floor mats, and washing of meal delivery coolers are also done by the students. In the kitchen they wash pans, dishes, and the meal preparation counters.

"The NTICE classes have been a great help to us," said Joy Welch, Coordinator of NT Meals on Wheels. "They are very dependable and do a fine job. The teachers who work with them do an excellent job of showing them how to do the tasks. We sure miss them when they are on school vacation days."



North Tonawanda City School District
175 Humphrey Street
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66
North Tonawanda, NY

Board of Education

Frank DiBernardo, President
Christine Porto, Vice President
Donna Braun
Joanne DalPorto
Kevin LoCicero
Colleen Osborn
Arthur Pappas

www.ntschoools.org

ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

The Academy of Engineering and Architecture is Invited to See the Cold, Cold World of Cryogenics

The Academy of Engineering and Architecture listened and watched as Bill Owens, a Senior Engineering Consultant for *Praxair*, Inc. of Tonawanda, demonstrated many fascinating experiments involving cryogenics, the study of extremely low temperatures. Praxair is a global company in which they use different processes to extract oxygen, nitrogen and argon from air, their raw material. These are essential resources for many industries.

Cryogenics is another method used for many applications. Cryogenics involves freezing matter to temperatures below -148 degrees F (or -100 degrees C) using combinations of elements such as nitrogen and oxygen. The great part of Mr. Owens' demonstration was that he explained what was happening with the temperature variances and how it is used in practical applications.



Students observed what happens when you freeze a roller hockey ball and throw it on the ground (it shatters like glass). Other demonstrations included making a miniature steam engine run and blow its whistle, making cotton balls start on fire and extinguish themselves in different concentrations of oxygen and nitrogen solutions, making a banana hard enough to hammer a nail into a piece of wood.

Fresh flower petals were frozen and crumbled into dust afterwards. It turns out that the dust is what is used to make perfume. Mr. Owens explained how aluminum is frozen so that it shrinks enough to be placed into a car engine block. When the aluminum warms up and expands, it is a lightweight metal that reduces the weight of the car and consequently reduces the cost to run the vehicle.

Mr. Owens put out a challenge to our engineering bound students to create materials that will be needed in the future to solve problems.

View us on the web at www.ntschoools.org

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education candidates can be found on the district website, www.ntschoools.org. Voters will elect 3 board members, each for a three-year term from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015.

PROPOSITION NO. 1

2012-2013 BUDGET

Voters will vote on the proposed 2012-2013 general fund expenditure budget of \$64,752,895. This budget is expected to impact the tax levy by 2.47%, which is calculated by comparing last year's actual to this year's budgeted.



PROPOSITION NO. 2

EXPENDITURE FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

SHALL the Board of Education of the North Tonawanda City School District be authorized and directed to expend up to \$200,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund (School Bus Purchases) for the purpose of purchasing buses as well as equipment related to these purchases.

Effect On Your House—Tax Cap (approximate)

House Value (in \$1,000)	Enhanced (in dollars) Month/Year	Reg. Star Month/Year	No Star Month/Year
\$50,000	\$0 / \$0	.84 / \$10.14	\$2.11 / \$25.36
\$75,000	.63 / \$7.56	\$1.90 / \$22.82	\$3.17 / \$38.04
\$100,000	\$1.68 / \$20.24	\$2.96 / \$35.50	\$4.23 / \$50.72