

North Tonawanda City Schools



Mission



Empower students to reach their fullest potential by cultivating a community of lifelong learners who think critically about the world around them.

Vision

Students reach their academic and social emotional goals through an inclusive learning environment.

Our Values

- Perserverance
- Confidence
- Community
- Empathy
- Knowledge
- Inclusion

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's Message

As we get set for spring and warmer weather, we also get set for the 2023-24 school year. The Board has worked hard to increase security at all buildings. We are lucky to have the local North Tonawanda Police Department that has been a huge help with this process. We utilize SRO's, off-duty and retired police officers, and security firms to ensure we are addressing safety. Moving into next year, the Board crafted a budget that maintains programs, increases security measures, and put us in line to address STEM(a) and curriculum advances to ensure that the North Tonawanda City School District is preparing its students for the future today.

Maintaining a budget as you know, is challenging work with the cost of needed items increasing daily. The District is no different than your household. We have gas and electric charges, as well as maintenance issues to deal with as well. By working with energy saving experts, we are dedicated to keeping costs low so taxes can stay below the tax cap. We have been able to stay below the state-imposed cap requirements for the last 10 years. All this while we still grow programs and add where needed. In addition to rising costs, the minimum wage has increased and is forecasted to keep increasing in the years to come. We must meet these state changes and keep curriculum and programs advancing.

I encourage each of you to review the information in this budget edition of the Spirit, as well as the wonderful things NT is doing in its schools every day.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Woytila,
Superintendent of Schools



School Board President's Message



I am writing to provide an update on the 2023-2024 budget process. The Board has been hard at work on the budget since January, I want to assure you that our Board remains committed to providing a high-quality education for all our students while also being mindful of the rising costs of inflation facing our families and community.

Our Board recognizes that safety and security is a top priority for our schools. That is why we have allocated funds in the upcoming budget to improve safety measures in our schools. We will be investing in two additional NTPD School Resource Officers (SRO), two Evolv security screening systems for NTHS, and protocols to ensure that our students and staff feel safe and secure while in our schools.

Despite the rising cost of inflation, our Board is committed to keeping the tax increase (1.4%) as low as possible. We understand that many members of our community are struggling financially, and we want to do everything we can to ease the burden on taxpayers while still providing an excellent education for our students.

I want to assure you that our Board will continue to make decisions that are in the best interests of our students, staff, and community. We value your input and encourage you to reach out to us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023, we all look forward to seeing the amazing things you will do to change the world.

Sincerely,

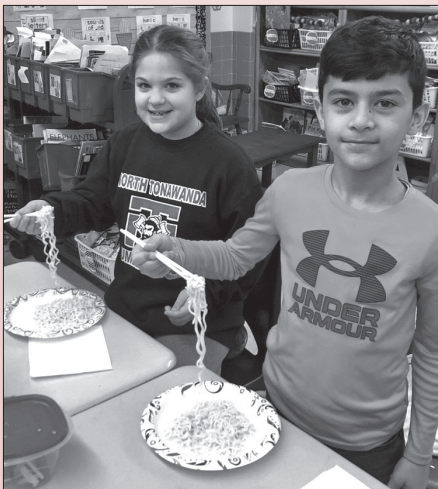
Matthew Kennedy, President,
North Tonawanda City Schools
Board of Education



Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 16, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • 405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center

Celebrating the Lunar New Year

During the month of January, Mrs. Hromowyk's 2nd grade class at Ohio School participated in a multicultural unit focused on the Lunar New Year. Students read books and poetry, wrote reflections and viewed various media on cultural traditions across Asian countries that date back over 4,000 years.



Students Savannah Heaps and Rayan Burhan tried their luck with chopsticks as they enjoyed a tradition Ramen meal.

Reading Week at Drake



Drake School celebrated Reading Week during the week of 3/13/23. Each classroom and area in the school had a door that featured a favorite book or genre. We also had mystery readers, a book swap, and a Pot of Gold reading scavenger hunt!

Staff Development Day

On Friday, March 17th, North Tonawanda CSD Staff took part in a staff development day. "This was a terrific day that I believe our staff enjoyed," said Patrick Holesko, Executive Director of Educational Services.



Cast Charms in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*

Our amazing cast stole some laughs and hearts with their performance of *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. The fun musical is based on the 1988 movie comedy about two con men trying to trick wealthy women out of their money.



NT and Niagara Falls Students View Film “Till” and Talk Racial Differences

A team of representatives from NT and Niagara Falls have been meeting monthly to discuss hosting various programs that are designed to foster open, honest dialogue between students from the two schools about diversity.

Fifty students, including 15 North Tonawanda High School students, were selected to take part in the third phase of a series of programs between North Tonawanda High School and Niagara Falls High School on Friday, March 3rd at Abate Elementary School in Niagara Falls.

The students have had the opportunity to examine and discuss cultural differences, historical perspectives and interactions between the diverse communities. “This particular program focused on the viewing of the movie, “Till” (2022),” explains Social Studies teacher Scott Gauld. “Many students from both schools had a basic understanding of what happened to 14 year old Emmett Till in 1955, but were then able to interpret the events more deeply upon seeing this powerful film.”



Samika Sullivan facilitating discussion.

The students watched the first half of the movie and then community member Samika Sullivan led a collective discussion between all the students. Students from both schools filled out “Post-Its” with their reactions to the historical events witnessed in the movie and posted them on boards at the back of the auditorium before breaking for lunch. Lunch was provided from Simply Soul and featured some time-tested Southern favorite dishes! The students enjoyed the lunch together then gathered for a final reaction to the movie in the auditorium.

North Tonawanda HS is looking forward to hosting the next event where the students can conclude the movie, have a closing discussion then have a fun few rounds of NT’s favorite homegrown game, Kan Jam.



Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda representatives at monthly meeting.

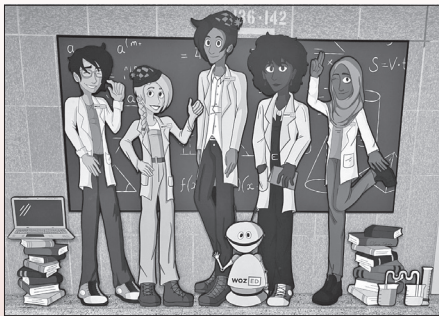
Field Trips Are Back



NTI Junior Jacks are excited to have field trip experiences back after a two-year pause. Field trips allow students to access the world around them and add to their school learning experience. Two of our fourth-grade teams visited Old Fort Niagara to walk in the footsteps of history. Being able to take a step back in time and see the fort and soldier actors is an amazing experience for our students and allowed them to see first-hand how early war forts were built, and what soldier life was like. Other fourth grade teams will be visiting in the spring as well as our 5th graders. We also had Mrs. Tollar, Mrs. Bakula and Mrs. Haynes’ team visit Platter’s Chocolate Factory to learn all about chocolate making. They ended their trip with a sweet treat of ice cream cones to enjoy! Other grade levels are looking forward to their time outside of school. Sixth grade will participate in an escape room as part of building teamwork skills and communication. Fifth grade classes will also be visiting Canalside.



Innovation Station



NTI unveiled its Innovation Station in February. The new STEAM lab is open for our Junior Jacks to create, explore and think collaboratively with their peers. The kids will have the opportunity to use the latest technology, including coding and VR goggles. Teachers can sign out the lab to use, or they can ask Mr. Sabo to lead a lesson. We are excited to see all the great things that come out of the lab. Thanks to our talented high schooler Olivia Tubiolo who created this mural and the one at Ohio School.

The Ohio Oreo Challenge

Ohio Elementary teachers Mrs. Trimboli and Mrs. Armstrong's class participated in a virtual Oreo Challenge Steam activity in the Discovery Den with first graders from Mullen Elementary in Tonawanda. They challenged the students to build a structure using Oreos, Popsicle sticks and paper. At the conclusion, students shared their results with each other through a webcam experience. A sweet time was had by all!



Helping to Brighten the Holidays and Lives



NTI teacher, Jen Kendt, and her students have been helping out the Knights of Columbus to brighten the lives of those in need in the community.

Three times a year, the Knights work with needy families in the District and have Ms. Kendt's students decorate the boxes. "Years ago, the social workers reached out to me to help coordinate the food donation," says Kendt. "Mary Hemple, who used to work at Gilmore, is involved with the Knights of Columbus, she became my contact person. So for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, the Knights bring in enough food for a holiday meal for 10 families, as well as other foods to fill their cupboards, like peanut butter, jelly, cereal, etc. My kids decorate the boxes in a festive way, then make some type of "gift", like a centerpiece of some sort. The kids feel like it is a privilege to do this because it is going to NT families, and sometimes families that they know."

This year one of the boxes actually went to a classmate who experienced a hardship because she lost her mother right before Thanksgiving, and the food allowed the family to still have some type of Thanksgiving during such a difficult time. It also allows some students who might not have the resources to "give" during the holidays, an opportunity to give. "I have had kids who come from families that are often on the receiving end of these things, now have the opportunity to give to others, and they feel a sense of pride," says Kendt. "Doing this really gives a sense of community to the kids."

Showing Some Love

The students from Drake School and from the North Tonawanda High School National Honor Society had some special valentines for the holiday. They visited Bishop Gibbons to take valentines and gift bags to the residents. Many hugs were exchanged. It was an awesome visit!



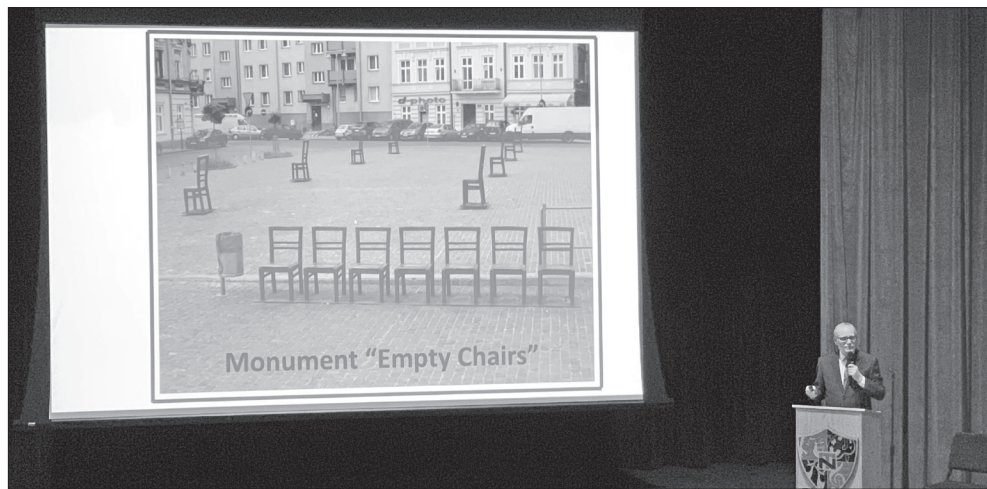
Holocaust Survivor Shares Life with HS Students

Tenth grade Global students had the incredible opportunity to listen to Grigory Shershnevsky, a Holocaust survivor, speak about his early life during the Nazi occupation in his home country of Lithuania. He and his wife Raisa, who also attended the presentation, were both Holocaust survivors who ultimately ended up moving to the Town of Tonawanda.

Teacher Chris Heyer said, “He shared excellent primary source messages of history, activism, and the importance of being an “outlander” rather than a “bystander”. I feel it was important for my refugee students to see heroes that sacrificed and are still here 75 years later to share their message.”

“One way to battle hate is to welcome others. Welcome immigrants and teach them how to be Americans.”

-Grigory Shershnevsky



Student Spotlight



The North Tonawanda Student Spotlight Exhibition Opening Night was a huge success on March 7th. Our students really shined! Congratulations to our amazing art teachers who inspired them!



All County Musicians

Great job to our 17 students and their Director Jason Ferguson (HS Instrumental Music Teacher), who performed in All-County Festival #1 at Royalton-Hartland High School:

Senior High Band: Brooke Price, Caelyn Kelly, Jack Orrange, Jack Carrasquillo, Isaac Fesmire, Dani Ulicny, Elyssa Pennell, Harrison Roberts, Aaryn Samsel, Samantha Holenstein, Astrid DeMart, Allan Briggs, Erika Kellar, Nigel Usiak and Delancy Garven.

Junior High Jazz Band: Meredith Roberts and Jackson Widener.



Budget Vote and Board Election

Tuesday,
May 16

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
405 Meadow Drive,
Fine Arts Center

Qualified voters
will vote only by
absentee ballot.



Students Learn About Recording Production

The Career Center and High School counselors hosted a career speaker from Niagara County Community College to speak about Audio Recording and Production.

Joe Schmitt, along with coworker Josh Wagner, talked to the students about the many unique careers in the field of Audio, Recording and Production. Students also had the opportunity of experiencing how to work and listen to all the equipment that is used in their line of work.



Alumni Talks Medical Career to Students

The Career Center hosted a 1999 graduate from NTHS, Dr. Carolyn Wiech. Dr. Wiech is an Emergency Room Doctor at Buffalo General Hospital and the VA Hospital. She spoke to our AP Biology and CAP Health students, on being an Emergency Room Doctor. We love hearing about graduate success stories!



Health Professionals Day Huge Success

Our high schoolers really enjoyed learning more about health careers from local college representatives and medical professionals.



Shatha Ali, Soghra Hossainy and Anel Acosta talk to a representative from SUNY Erie Community College.

ESOL Class Helping Students Assimilate into American Culture and Education

Alicia Vizzi has been an English to Speakers of Other Languages teacher for eight years in North Tonawanda. “I work with students who have come to our school from different countries or who speak different languages at home,” she explains. “We are working to help them learn English, share about their cultures as well as ours, to help them feel part of our community as well as to educate others.”

Mrs. Vizzi has students from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. She also has students whose primary language is Spanish and Arabic. “Some students were born in the United States, but have a different first language, and other times students have recently moved to North Tonawanda and speak very little or no English,” she explains. “In the Middle School we also have students who are American but want to learn Russian, so they learn during their study hall. The students really enjoy working together.”



Alicia Vizzi and the Three Musketeers: (LtoR) Polina, Mrs. Vizzi, Anzhela and Vitalii.



Mrs. Vizzi and Mrs. Dube working with students.

they were starting at zero. We work with them on language, reading, writing, speaking and math and now they can converse in short sentences. I love watching them interact with the other students. It's a beautiful thing.”

ENL classes are also offered at Ohio, NTI and the High School through the District's English as a New Language Department. Each class is tailored to the individual schools and the students' needs. Vizzi says for many of the Middle School students it is their first time in a school in the US. “We are working with them on the four components for ELL's-Listening, Reading Writing and Speaking, a lot of vocabulary, phonics and learning the culture,” says Vizzi. “I find the work very rewarding. It is wonderful to see the students grow and become more independent and confident.” She points to three of her students who she and Mrs. Dube have dubbed “The Three Musketeers”. “They all started classes here at the same time and they hang out together and have really become the best of friends. It is neat to see them grow and I am so happy that our school and community makes them feel very welcome here.”

Middle School Students Explore Unique Writings for Black History Month

NT Middle School English teacher, Marissa Bloomfield, has been teaching a Civil Rights Movement Unit for 8th grade English for the past few years. “I used articles, speeches, and poetry that celebrated Black History. For example, students read “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King Jr., “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman, “Choice: A Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” by Alice Walker and an article from Newsela about Ruby Bridges.”

“Currently we are analyzing Amanda Gorman's poem “The Hill We Climb” and students are exploring the meaning behind it,” explains Bloomfield. She says she is very impressed with her students' response to the unit. “You can tell it really made them think about how it affected society and our world and they wrote some beautiful and amazing things.”

The unit concludes with the Dr. Seuss book “The Sneetches”. Bloomfield says this about that book, “The story of the Sneetches is used as an allegory for the Civil Rights Movement and the Holocaust. This piece is used as our bridge between both units. My hope for this unit is to offer students a new perspective, celebrate Black history, and encourage them to be a positive force in our country's quest toward equality for all. I hope to reinforce critical thinking skills and challenge them to be brave in a very reactive and judgmental society. The only way forward is together and hopefully our students can be critical thinkers, brave, and lead with empathy.”



(LtoR) English teacher Marissa Bloomfield, Peyton Moore, Maddie Caron and Lila Mirowski.

PROPOSITION #1 VOTE ON BUDGET

Shall the proposed budget of Expenditures of the North Tonawanda City School District for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$85,120,000 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.

☐ Yes ☐ No

Transportation Capital Expenditure

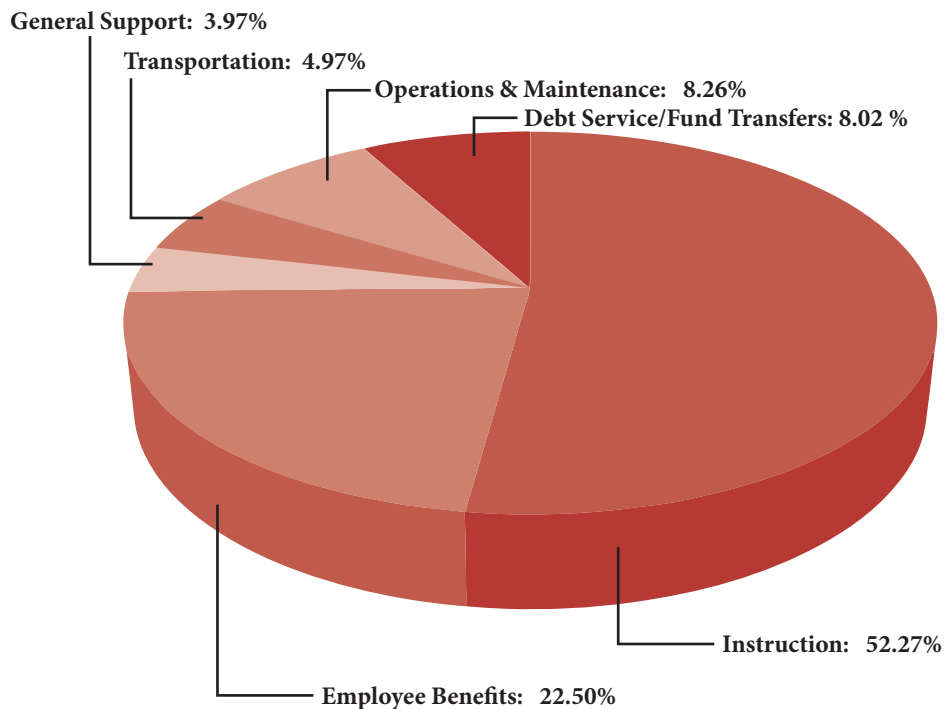
In the 2023-2024 budget year, the district is proposing to purchase three type "C", 66-passenger big buses, one type "A", small buses, and additional school bus-type vans/minivans/suburban, or similar vehicles for the purpose of transporting students as part of home to school and extra-curricular services. These vehicles will be replacing vehicles that will be retired from the current district fleet that are aging out. These purchases will be made on the basis of state contract and current market prices which may limit the number of vehicles that are actually able to be purchased via this budget line.

Board of Education Candidates

Information on Board of Education anticipated candidates can be found on the district website: www.ntschoools.org.

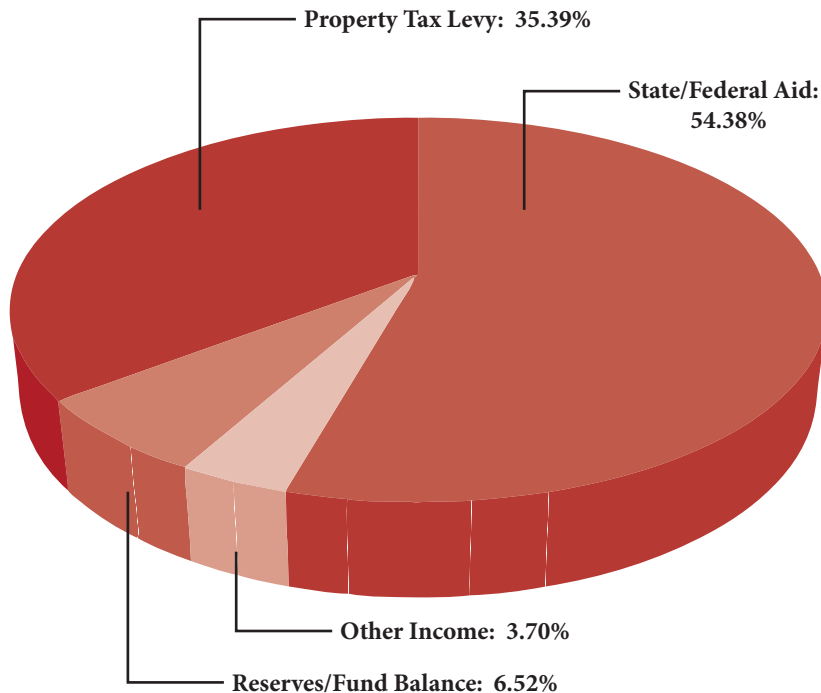
The election of members of the Board of Education shall be held to fill two (2) at-large vacancies on the Board. All seats are for three (3) year terms.

EXPENDITURES



	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent Change from 2022-23
Instruction	\$ 43,714,208	\$ 44,495,123	1.79%
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, pupil personnel services.			
Employee Benefits	\$ 19,375,000	\$ 19,150,000	-1.16%
Includes: Employee retirement systems, health insurance, unemployment insurance, social security and worker's compensation.			
General Support	\$ 3,028,083	\$ 3,380,446	11.64%
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	\$ 4,219,688	\$ 4,233,597	0.33%
Includes: Transportation to public and non-public schools, vocational schools, educational field and athletic trips and transportation of special education children.			
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$ 7,572,240	\$ 6,829,000	-9.82%
Includes: Principal and interest payments on debt for district building reconstruction projects and energy conservation projects. Also, includes District's share of special education summer programs.			
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 5,645,781	\$ 7,031,834	24.55%
Includes: Maintenance of district facilities, custodial services and utility costs.			
TOTAL BUDGET	\$83,555,000	\$85,120,000	1.87%

PROJECTED REVENUES



	2022-2023	2023-2024	Change from 2022-23
State/Federal Aid	\$ 45,761,000	\$46,291,000	\$530,000

State/Federal Aid represents the largest portion of revenue for the District. In the 2023-24 school year, it is projected to be 54.77 % of all revenue. Last year it was 54.38 %. Year over year and budget to budget this area of revenue has stayed consistent the past two fiscal cycles with an approximately \$ 800,000 increase average over the last two years. This represents about a 2 % increase each year on average.

Other Income	\$ 2,458,000	\$3,152,000	\$694,000
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Any income received by the School District other than State and Federal 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.

Reserves/Fund Balance	\$ 5,625,000	\$5,550,000	(\$75,000)
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Reserves: 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, the Board of Education has adopted a fiscally responsible process to use those reserve funds that are available. They have adopted a process which attempts to maintain quality programs while keeping the tax levy reasonable and within the Tax Cap threshold.

Fund Balance: 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 the fiscal year to be carried forward as fund balance.

Tax Levy	\$ 29,711,000	\$30,127,000	\$416,000
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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 2023-24 school year, it is anticipated that there will be a tax levy increase of \$ 416,000 which represents a 1.4 % over the previous year. The District will be using \$ 800,000 in reserves to offset the loss of tax revenue to support the budget as a temporary measure to provide relief to taxpayers.

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES	\$83,555,000	\$85,120,000	\$1,565,000
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\$100,000 Capital Outlay and Capital Improvement Projects

What is the capital outlay project that is included in the 2023-2024 school budget this year?

Capital outlay projects were established by NYSED Department of Facilities Planning as a method for districts to maintain facilities, make modest upgrades, and improvements of up to \$100,000 between larger capital projects. The most important aspect of these projects is that they will generate state aid for the school district to cover a portion of the cost of construction. In the past these necessary repairs and improvements would all be paid for through local funds as building repairs in the budget, or the district would have to delay repairs until the district could put together a large capital project. Now, using capital outlay projects the district will only pay for approximately 16% of the costs with local funds because the state will provide aid for approximately 84% providing a funding source for the district to reduce the local cost to taxpayers. In the 23-24 budget year the district is proposing to use these funds for a construction/reconstruction project to address improvements to the North Tonawanda High School campus which would include but not limited to elevator and door reconstruction or replacement.



OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

North Tonawanda City Schools Budget Notice

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Budget Adopted for the 2022-23 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2023-24 School Year
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 83,555,000	\$ 85,120,000	\$ 83,905,000
Increase/Decrease for the 2022-23 School Year		\$ 1,565,000	\$ 350,000
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		1.87%	0.42%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.70%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 29,711,000	\$ 30,127,000	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$		
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable	\$		
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$		
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 29,711,000	\$ 30,127,000	\$ 29,711,000
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 534,714	\$ 607,172	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, Excluding Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 29,668,547	\$ 29,870,359	
H. Total Proposed Tax Levy, Excluding Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 29,176,286	\$ 29,519,828	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 492,261	\$ 350,531	
Administrative Component	\$ 6,828,416	\$ 7,611,812	\$ 6,887,355
Program Component	\$ 61,468,153	\$ 61,514,247	\$ 61,998,704
Capital Component	\$ 15,258,431	\$ 15,993,942	\$ 15,018,942

The District would adopt a contingency budget with \$1,215,000 reduced from student supplies and materials, equipment, nonessential maintenance, and non-instructional non-unionized salaries. Also, due to the contingency budget regulations, school facilities would not be available for public use at no cost.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-24 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings ¹	\$499

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-2024 by the qualified voters of the NORTH TONAWANDA CITY school district, NIAGARA County, New York, will be held at the Fine Arts Center school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of 11:00am and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the NORTH TONAWANDA CITY school(s), at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine

¹The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Budget Vote and Board Election • Tuesday, May 16, 2023
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. • 405 Meadow Drive - Fine Arts Center

Meet Your Board of Education



Back Row (LtoR): Superintendent Greg Woytila, Dr. Krista Vince Garland, Chloe Mulvaugh, Matthew Kennedy and Peter Chenier, Jr. Front Row (LtoR): Gabrielle Richards, Cheryl McMahon and Stephanie Emiliani.

Matthew Kennedy (President)

Years on the Board of Education: Six years of Board service, four years as Board President
Occupation: Cybersecurity Manager at Ingram Micro

Stephanie Emiliani (Vice President)

Years on the Board of Education: Two years
Occupation: Claims Analyst
Why Did You Become a NT BOE Member: As a way to give back to my community. I think what makes NTCSD so special is the people! Everyone is so dedicated to making NT the best it can be, and that's infectious!

Peter Chenier, Jr.

Years on the Board of Education: This is my first year on the Board.

Occupation: I'm a Sr. Sales Manager at Ingram Micro managing our PC products.

Family: I've been married for nearly 16 years to my wife Jennifer and have two boys Chris and Nick who attend schools in the District.

Why Did You Want to Become a NT BOE

Member: Over the past 20 years I've dedicated my life to the residents and City of North Tonawanda and decided to continue that dedication by joining the board recently this past year. I wanted to help ensure the success of our students no matter the path they choose while being a voice for all, which includes our students, staff and taxpayers.

Cheryl McMahon

Years on the Board of Education: I have lived in NT for 30 years and have served on the school board for several years, twice as president and twice as vice president, and I am now a trustee.
Occupation: I am a supervisor for Child Protective Services in Niagara County, serving New York State.

Family: I am married with six adult children who went through NT schools.

Education: I have a Master's degree in School and Community Health.

Why Did You Want to Become a NT BOE

Member: I am very proud to serve my community on the school board in a district that served my children and family so well. I am dedicated to passing that forward to our amazing families and students in our district.

Chloe Mulvaugh

Years on the Board of Education: First year Board member and loving it!

Occupation: Nurse and my husband and I run/own a party rental company.

Family: I am a mom of three, one daughter in the district at NTI. Two step children out of the district.

Why Did You Want to Become a NT BOE

Member: I ran for the school board because I wanted to be an advocate for the children and parents of the district!

Gabrielle Richards

Years on Board of Education: Started in 2019
Occupation: I am a Small Business Owner – The Vegan Grocery Store

Family: Married to Jason Richards and one son, a three-year-old named Philip.

Education: University at Buffalo with two Bachelor's degrees: German and Linguistics and a Master's degree in Germanic Linguistics.

Dr. Krista Vince Garland

Years on the Board of Education: Started in 2018

Occupation: I'm an Associate Professor in the Exceptional Education Department at Buffalo State University and teach both undergraduate and graduate courses. My research focuses on improving educational experiences and positive therapeutic outcomes through human-animal interactions via animal-assisted interventions (i.e., therapy animals!).

Education: I'm originally from the Central Florida area, where I earned a Ph.D. in Education. I'm expanding my education into Clinical Mental Health Counseling and in my final year in the Master's program at Niagara University.

Garden Club Brings Home Award



The Garden Club recently went to Linde Inc. for an Environmental Ambassador Summit, where students from eight schools competed to win money for an environmental project they designed.

Six members of our club wrote a proposal for a \$1,000 grant that would fund a project in the NT community. The students came up with the idea of having a garbage scavenger hunt called the North Tonawanda Garbage Games. Their plan is to have regular garbage clean-ups at the school and in the community. The club will develop an app where students can track the garbage they pick up and win prizes based on how much garbage they picked up. This will also be an opportunity for students to get service hours as well.

Advisors, Melissa Elliott and Chris Hall, explained that the students had to write the proposal, present their idea, and create a poster that represents the project. "Out of the schools that attended, we won 2nd place and got an extra \$250 dollars to spend on our project, \$1,250 total!"

The students also rotated around to six different environmental organizations to learn more about what these organizations do, how they can get involved in volunteer opportunities, and to become aware of the potential careers in the environmental conservation field. Students received raffle tickets for asking questions and engaging with the presenters. Two of our students won a prize for their participation!"

The team was also featured on Channel 4 News. We are so proud of these students!



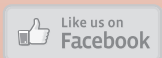
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Permit No. 66
North Tonawanda,
NY

NORTH TONAWANDA
CITY SCHOOLS
176 Walck Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Board of Education

Matthew Kennedy, President
Stephanie Emiliani, Vice President
Peter Chenier, Jr.
Cheryl McMahon
Chloe Mulvaugh
Gabrielle Richards
Dr. Krista Vince Garland
Jack Carrasquillo, Student Member

Gregory J. Woytila
Superintendent of Schools
www.ntschoools.org



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NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

North Tonawanda City Schools



Support for all students and families in the North Tonawanda City School District

SERVICES

- *Links with Community Resources*
- *Referrals*
- *Parenting Support*

North Tonawanda High School
Room #111
Kimberly Capriotti
(716) 807-3627