

Answers to your questions:

- ***I don't currently have children in the school district, but want to support my community. What's the benefit to me of a strong school district?***
 - Community infers a commitment to the benefit of the whole, including schools, and each generation taking care of the next.
 - The school district is the second largest taxpayer to the City to support services, infrastructure, and programs for residents.
 - Protects the value of your property and attracts new residents.
 - Financially supports the community's future.
 - Provides structure and programs for children that lead to a safe and vital community for people of all ages.
 - Graduates students who are successful and productive adults.

- ***What does Excellent with Distinction mean?***
 - Student performance has earned the highest State rating.
 - Students achieved more than a year's worth of academic growth.
 - Students are competitive with surrounding districts.
 - This is the highest return on your tax dollar investment.

- ***Why is the district in this situation and why didn't I hear sooner?***
 - This is a direct result of the recession and economic downturn.
 - Levies are part of the three-year cycle for funding schools and have been discussed since the last levy passed in 2007.
 - Increases in tax delinquencies have reduced revenue.
 - Reduced State funding – next year the decrease will be over 20%.
 - Unfunded mandates for schools that must be followed.
 - State of Ohio has an \$8.0 billion hole in their budget – the one time stimulus money will not be available next year.
 - Visit www.northholmstedschools.org for complete details.

- ***Will there be a "Pay to Participate" option if the levy fails in August?***
 - **Yes**, there are plans to institute a "pay to participate" schedule of fees for participation in sports, music, clubs and extra-curricular activities if the levy fails in August.

The Board of Education recognizes that the budget deficit is both an expense and a revenue problem, and that our staff working together with the community is the only way to fix the problem.

June 8, 2010