



Northville Board of Education seeks input in addressing school district’s financial future in light of severe state budget cuts

Four Community Forums slated for December 1-14

Northville school families, staff and community members can get a clearer picture of the school district’s budget, the cost of various programs and services, and offer their input on managing the school district’s financial future in light of the severe state budget cuts during a series of four community forums being sponsored by the Northville Public Schools Board of Education in December.

The **Managing Our Future Forums** are scheduled for the following dates, times and locations.

Day/Date	Time	Location	Room
Tuesday, December 1	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Meads Mill Middle School 16700 Franklin Road	Cafeteria
Thursday, December 3	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Hillside Middle School 775 North Center Street	Cafeteria
Monday, December 7	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Northville High School 45700 Six Mile Road	Cafeteria
Monday December 14	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Northville High School 45700 Six Mile Road	Cafeteria

Why Host Community Forums?

If the current school funding cuts issued by Lansing in October stand, Northville Public Schools will experience the highest per pupil funding cut in the state at \$613 per student, or \$4.3 million. This includes \$292 in statewide per pupil funding cuts for this school year issued by the Governor and the state legislature, along with the line-item veto by the Governor of the 20j allocation paid to 39 of the state’s public school districts (including Northville) as part of Proposal A. The loss of 20j funding means an additional revenue loss for 2009-10 of \$321 per pupil for Northville Public Schools.

Although school parents and district leaders from Northville, along with school districts across the state, continue to pressure state lawmakers to restore 20j funding and reduce the impact of the statewide cut for this school year, the reality is as Michigan’s economy continues to spiral downward public schools face drastic cuts in school funding this year, as well as for 2010-11 and beyond. Based on predictions from the state regarding continued revenue shortfalls, Northville Public Schools could lose an additional **\$2 million to \$5 million** in state funding in fiscal year 2010-11.

“These are unprecedented financial times for our state and our schools,” said Northville Superintendent Dr. Leonard R. Rezmierski. “This dire economic situation is causing heavy revenue shortfalls in the state budget including the School Aid Fund, which Michigan schools rely on for 90 percent of their annual funding. This is putting extreme pressure on our school district and school districts statewide, as we struggle to reduce costs in a budget that has already been trimmed to the bare-bones.”

What Can I Expect at the Forums?

Over the past several months, the Northville school board and district officials have been carefully evaluating numerous cost-cutting options, including modifying and reducing programs and services. This has included analyzing data regarding the cost savings, feasibility, benefits and challenges of various options, as well as the potential impact on students' educational experiences.

“Our goal in hosting these forums is to engage all of the district’s stakeholders in a dynamic discussion about how best to manage the district’s resources and future so that we do the best we can to ensure all our students continue to succeed and that our programs continue to reflect what our community values most about the education of our children,” said Northville Board of Education President Ken Roth.

The community forums will offer participants the opportunity to review the data and analysis related to the various options in a small group setting with district officials and school board members on hand to provide additional information and answer questions. The forums will have an open-house format that will allow participants to come and go at any time during each two-hour session. There will be an orientation/overview station, which will repeat every 15-20 minutes, that participants are asked to attend upon arrival, before moving freely among the various stations focused on the K-12 instructional program, transportation, athletics/co- and extra-curriculars and NPS staffing, among other informational stations.

School families, staff and community members are encouraged to attend the community forum that best meet their schedule. The content and format will be the same at each of the forums. Before leaving, participants will be asked to give written feedback regarding the options in each area they consider most viable, as well as offer suggestions.

What If I’m Unable to Attend One of the Forums?

The same information presented at the forums also will be available beginning December 1 on the district website (www.northville.k12.mi.us) including an on-line version of the feedback form.

“It will take reductions in a number of areas to achieve the necessary cost savings,” Roth said. “The input from school families, staff and the community will be integral to the final plan the board puts in place. Now more than ever, it is crucial that all of the district’s stakeholders work together, with the best interest of our students in mind, to continue to support Northville’s outstanding educational programs.”

What Else Can I Do?

In addition to attending the forums, school parents and community members are strongly encouraged to continue to contact their elected officials and ask them to restore the 20j funding and reduce the impact of the statewide cuts for this school year. Contact information for Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and the state legislators representing the Northville school community are available on the district website.