



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

January 17, 2023

Dear Warrior Parent/Guardian:

As we approach the spring season and second semester of coursework our district is engaged in many routine operations and new opportunities. Our capital project continues to move forward as it enters the final months before opening for student attendance to begin the 2023-2024 school year. Our budgeting process has begun and more information will be available in the coming weeks and months following the announcement and approval of the NYS budget which includes needed and expected revenue and aids for our district operations. Additionally, our district is aware of the regulations drafted by the State Education Department that will require districts to modify or change their logos, mascots, and imagery that could be considered discriminatory.

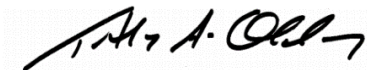
Here are important aspects and informational items that all members of our community should be aware of:

- Our annual public vote on the school budget and Board of Education members is **Tuesday, May 16, 2023 in the High School Miller Gymnasium from 11am – 8pm.**
- I hope you have had a chance to view the area of the new Tonawanda Elementary School. The progress of this new building is remarkable and is a sense of pride for our entire community. The community support for this capital project was most evident when our voters overwhelmingly approved this consolidation project in October of 2019. Please visit our TONA2020 website: <https://www.tonawandacsd.org/page/tona-2020>
  - The first year of the debt service payment for the TONA2020: Elementary School Consolidation Capital Project is due this year. This increase in school taxes will appear as part of the “tax cap” calculation and will be included in the annual school tax bills to taxpayers that is due in the fall of 2023.
- Often times in public arena, the tax cap is causally referred to as a 2% increase in school taxes. However, the actual change in taxes is subject to qualified exclusions and other allowable modifications within the tax cap formula. For example, last year the tax cap calculation provided for only a 0.78% increase to school taxes. Considering the first year of debt service on the new building beginning in this tax period, and other allowable exclusions calculated in the tax cap formula, our districts increase in tax levy is expected to be greater than 2%. An increase in NYS aid and other revenues will significantly help our school district reduce any potential tax increase.

- In an effort to remain fiscally responsible, the district has begun the process of marketing the Riverview and Mullen schools to be sold.
  - Our district has an excellent record of transitioning school buildings and district property to new owners that have utilized the space responsibly, respectfully, and added value to our city.
  - No offers have been received or considered by the Board of Education at this time. This process will require a public vote to finalize any sale.
  - We anticipate offering the public vote on any potential sale to occur with the annual budget vote in May.
  - Once the district receives a viable offer for one or both of the schools, we will communicate additional information with the community at that time.
- Our district estimates that the monthly expense to maintain these buildings after we transition into the new Tonawanda Elementary School could be as high as \$8,000 per month, per building. It is most appropriate and responsible for the district to take action to mitigate any further expenses, liabilities, and maintenance associated with the continued ownership of these buildings after our educational programs and usage has concluded.
- We anticipate selling these properties, and after costs associated with the sales and concluding the remaining debt from prior capital projects, realizing a net gain in proceeds. This money would be used by the district to provide for the planned operations and general expenditures to supplement our expected revenues.
- Our district continues to await clarification and additional information regarding our current logo and team name. The extent of the required changes has not been defined by the NYS Board of Regents. Our district has created a webpage that will be updated and include pertinent information regarding this topic. Please visit the webpage at:  
<https://www.tonawandacsd.org/page/board-of-education-informational-updates>

Thank you for your continued support and trust in educating and caring for the children we see each day. Your partnership and pride is what drives our work as we prepare to open one of the most remarkable new elementary schools in WNY. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools