



WHAT IS ISSUE 62

Issue 62 is a tax issue that will appear on the November 7th ballot for residents of Richmond Heights that live within the Richmond Heights Local School District's (RHLSD) boundaries. Residents of Ward 3, Precinct C do not live within these boundaries and will not see this issue on their ballot. This is the area near Richmond Mall. These residents do not pay property taxes to the RHLSD but rather to the South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools.

Issue 62 is being presented by the school board, and it is asking the voters to approve the financing of a new 21st Century Community Learning Center.

This new facility will house students in grades 7-12 as well as provide amenities for the entire community. The new facility will house the Richmond Heights County Library which is currently located in a strip plaza on Wilson Mills Road. It will also create 1,000 sq. ft. dedicated for senior citizens, complete with meeting space, kitchenette and space to do the Silver Sneakers workout programming sponsored by the YMCA.

The new facility will have a large multipurpose space that residents of the city can rent out for special celebrations. This space will also serve the board of education as space for their monthly meetings.

Also, the facility has 2 dedicated classrooms that could be designed for an Aviation and Allied Services Career Tech Program that could become a part of the Excel TECC Career Consortium through Mayfield HS.



CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHY ARE THERE 3 PARTS TO ISSUE 62

There are 3 parts to Issue 62, but only 1 vote is required! Here's why.....

Part 1 - The overall building project costs approximately \$27 million; however, our school district has a debt ceiling of \$17.5 million by which it can issue bonds as determined by the State Auditor due the small size of our district. Part 1 seeks permission to **issue bonds** in the amount of \$17.5 million.

Part 2 - The balance of approximately \$9.5 million will be paid for through a **permanent improvement levy**.

Part 3 - This portion of the issue is an **operating tax** that will cover the operating expenses for the district and the new facility. Current expenses include not only operations, but also transportation costs that we incur as we provide transportation or transportation reimbursement to all students in Richmond, whether they attend public or private schools.

IT'S AN ALL-IN-ONE VOTE

The cost of this project will be \$1.16 a day for the owner of a \$100,000 home in Richmond Heights. That's about the cost of a daily cup of coffee or \$423.40 a year.



WHY DO WE NEED ISSUE 62?

According to County Auditor records the following points are Richmond Heights' reality....

- ✓ Our city and schools are contracting as evidenced by the following;
- ✓ Home values have declined by \$135 million since 2009
- ✓ Commercial property values have declined by \$56 million since 2010
- ✓ The school district's overall tax base has declined by \$187 million since 2007
- ✓ The median household income is \$46,557 which is slightly below the state average of \$49, 429
- ✓ The community has *lost* 31.9% of its population between the ages of 0-19 since 2010
- ✓ The community has *gained* 43.3% of its population between the ages of 45 and over since 2010
- ✓ The total millages for our neighboring school districts are;
 - Euclid at 86.41
 - South Euclid Lyndhurst (SEL) at 68.06
 - Mayfield at 53.84
 - RICHMOND HEIGHTS IS AT 52.44 (The Lowest)

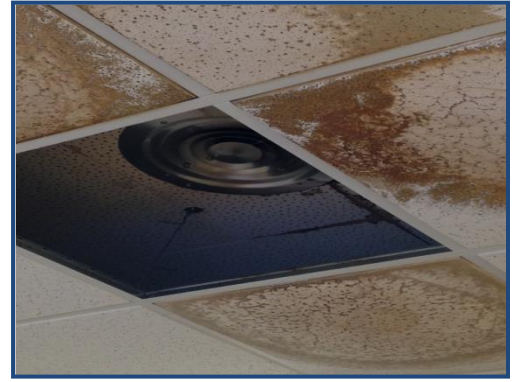
- Even with the passage of Issue 62, we will still be lower than Euclid and SEL
- ✓ If the district merges with another district as some have suggested, then the Richmond Heights taxpayers would assume the tax rate of the district that it merged with, which will more than likely be a higher tax rate.

A new 21st Century, state-of-the-art, school and community center could attract families with children as well as provide services and amenities for our aging population. **WE MUST RE-INVENT OURSELVES!!**



THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS

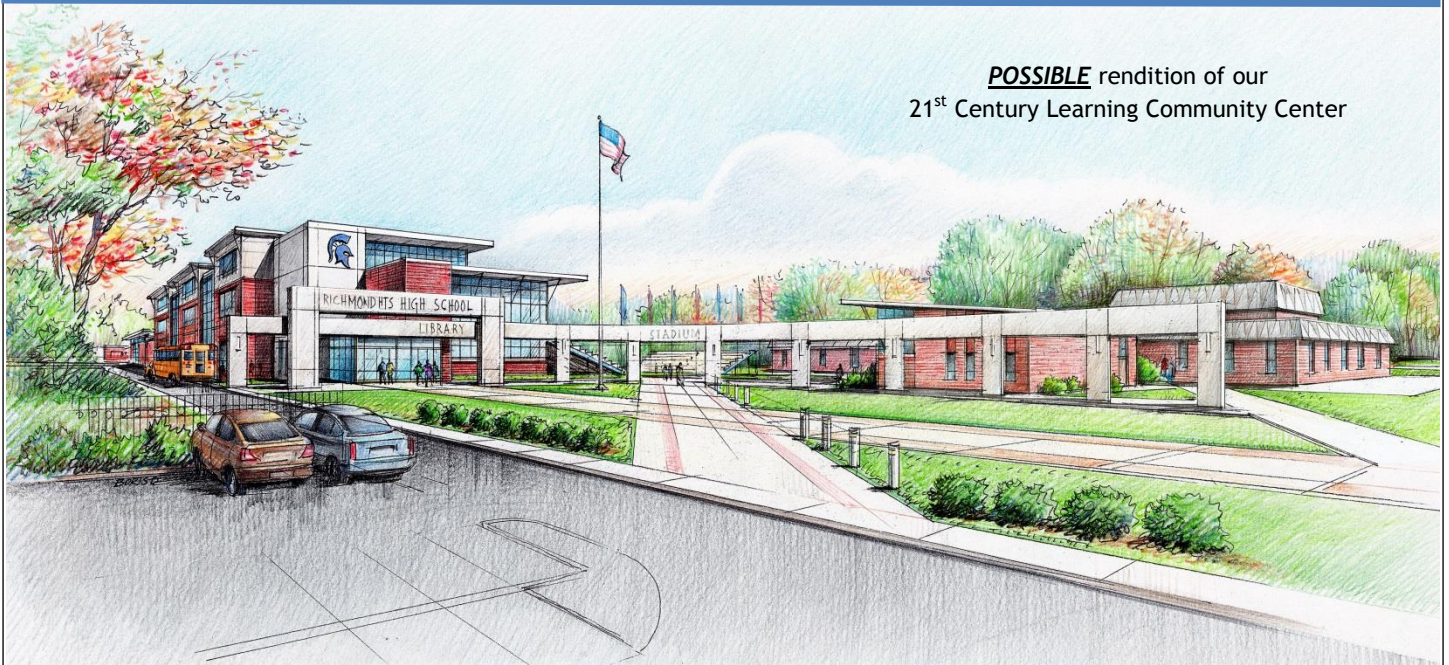
The core of our secondary school was built in 1921 and has had several additions since then, with the latest addition being in 1971. The current facilities are visibly a deterrent to attracting new residents. The monies spent on yearly maintenance and repairs should be going to provide for a 21st century education. New facilities could kick start an ongoing resurgence of students returning to their home public school in Richmond Heights. Over the last 3 years the district has had to deal with the unexpected costs of repairing a major water main break; frozen pipes that burst; ceiling tiles that caved in due to roof leaks and failed boilers. No child should have to be educated in these conditions.



Falling ceiling tiles



Money spent for major repairs rather than new technology



POSSIBLE rendition of our 21st Century Learning Community Center

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