

James Cain Editorial  
Sunday, October 18, 2015

## **Your Voice Matters in Port Huron Schools**

October 23 and 29, 2015 will present two important opportunities for the community to participate in developing the future of Port Huron Schools. On Friday, October 23, Memorial Stadium will host the annual Crosstown Showdown event.

This has become a signature event in our community and as a District, we are so proud of the student athletes, band members, cheer teams and coaches. We appreciate the hard work of the committee that creates this event every year under the leadership of event director Dr. Randa Jundi-Samman. This exciting evening under the “Friday Night Lights” is an excellent showcase for the legacy of alumni our schools has produced. It is also a wonderful opportunity to continue to build for the future of our current students and the programs that are available to them. Simply put, it’s truly a celebration of our community and district, coming together in our collective pride.

This year’s Crosstown Showdown will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the band program, immediately followed by a tribute to St. Clair County’s Vietnam-era Veterans as a pre-game presentation. The annual match-up between the Port Huron High “Big Reds” and Port Huron Northern “Huskies” varsity football teams will follow at 7 p.m. People can purchase tickets for the game’s special “Tailgate” section, sponsorships and alumni t-shirts on our district website [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us) All funds raised are directed toward the Port Huron Schools Endowment Fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County. The fund supports the special programs and projects of Port Huron Schools and its students.

On Thursday, October 29, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Port Huron Northern High School, the second of two Community Engagement sessions will be held. All community members are welcome to attend this event, which is designed to gather further input on the future of Port Huron Schools and our priorities for facilities and program enhancements throughout the district. The first session was hosted at Port Huron High last month. This second session will present the direction from that event and input we have received since. We will share a draft proposal with detail and then continue to gather and utilize feedback from attending community members. Free childcare will be provided during the Community Engagement session.

The Community Engagement sessions are being led by a steering committee for the project called “Building Tomorrow, Today.” The committee is comprised of community members from various sectors, interests and regions of the Port Huron Schools district area.

For more information, please go to [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us) or send your comments to [YourVoiceMatters@phasd.us](mailto:YourVoiceMatters@phasd.us) Every voice truly does matter as we move together as a district and community. I urge your participation in this conversation as the steering committee works

with district leadership to present a plan to the Board of Education in November. Together, we can and will create a district that provides ideal learning environments for our students, with innovative programs that can be a point of pride and excellence for our entire community. It is my sincere hope and desire that you will come together with us to build a better tomorrow for our youth! We have a tremendous opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for the next generation of students in Port Huron Schools. Thank you for your continued support.