

Published by the  
Rayen Stadium  
Renovation Project  
Committee

# Questions & Answers

Rayen Stadium hasn't hosted a sporting event since 1993. But a committee headed by Coach Jim Tressel and Rev. Dr. Lewis Macklin plans to raise \$3 million to support a comeback of the storied athletic facility by September 2012.



“ Many of the most exciting moments in my career were those when our team found itself behind but dug in deep to mount a comeback and earn a win. There's something special about a comeback, and I'm pleased to be involved in this comeback project.”

**JIM TRESSEL**

*Former football coach at Ohio State and Youngstown State*



“ This is about bringing back pride to our student athletes and our schools in general. The new Rayen Stadium will provide a gathering place for our student body and their parents, families and friends that we have not had in the city schools for many years.”

**REV. DR. LEWIS MACKLIN**

*Pastor of Holy Trinity Missionary Baptist Church in Youngstown*

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jim Tressel, Co-Chair

Rev. Dr. Lewis Macklin, Co-Chair

Richard Atkinson

Attorney Alan Kretzer

Joe Malmisur

Ed Matey

Gary O'Nesti

Councilman Nathaniel Pinckard

Mayor Chuck Sammarone

Attorney Bill Weimer



Details on plans to raise \$3 million  
to get **Rayen Stadium**  
back in action by September 2012

● **Why would Youngstown City Schools consider renovating the Rayen Stadium while it is in Academic Watch?**

To be clear, academic achievement remains the district's highest priority. We also know that athletics is a very important part of a student's learning experience and builds student pride and community spirit. In fact, research shows that students who participate in team sports and activities generally perform better in school.

By renovating Rayen Stadium, we are offering inner-city youth the same opportunities that suburban school children and students in school districts throughout Ohio already enjoy.

● **What benefit could a stadium provide for the Youngstown community?**

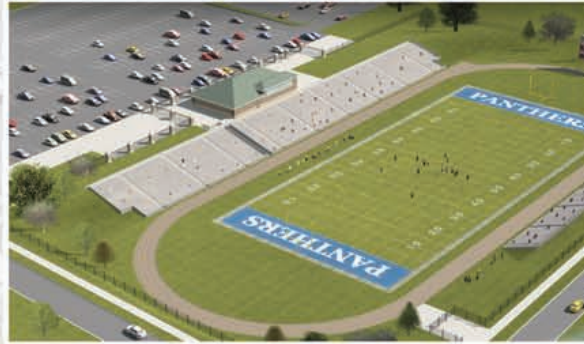
The stadium will provide a central gathering place for Youngstown families, help our school district rebuild a fan base, and contribute to the rejuvenation of the inner core of the city of Youngstown.

With an artificial turf field, the district could use the stadium for all its football teams from grades 7 through high school. When it is not in use by city school teams, the stadium would be available for other local organizations, such as youth flag football teams, youth football leagues, minor league pro football teams and parochial schools.

Also, soccer and other sports could be restored to the Youngstown City Schools once a field was available. Local soccer teams could use the field as well.

● **Why can't the school teams just use Youngstown State University's Beede Field?**

Beede Field is just not available as often as it used to be. The YSU women's soccer team recently started using the field on Friday nights and YSU football uses it on Saturdays. Three high schools (East, Ursuline & Mooney) are also trying to schedule games during the available dates.



● **What exactly is involved in the renovation project?**

The project includes installing synthetic turf, lighting, locker rooms, a concession area, public restrooms, press box, storage, parking area and updated seating to accommodate 5,000 spectators.

● **How much would a stadium renovation cost?**

We estimate the renovation cost to be \$3 million.

● **How would the renovation be funded?**

To begin construction, the Board of Education allocated \$1 million or 1/3 of the funds remaining from the recent school construction project. It is important to note that these funds were generated by the sale of bonds and can only be spent on construction. The district plans to raise \$2 million from community organizations, businesses and individuals.

● **How much money has been raised to date?**

So far, a total of \$1.2 million has been earmarked for the project. Along with the \$1 million in funds remaining from the school building project, the Trustees of the Rayen Foundation have pledged \$200,000 for naming rights of the stadium. We believe we have community support and they will be responsive to our appeal.

● **What is the timetable for the project?**

We plan to hire an architect in the near future and start construction before the end of the year. We expect to complete construction by the end of August 2012, so that the stadium is available for use in September.

● **Can financial donations be spread over a period of years?**

Yes, YCS is accepting financial pledges over a four-year period.

● **Are you accepting gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds?**

Yes, as a nonprofit organization, we do not have to pay income or capital gains taxes, but the amount gifted to Youngstown City Schools is fully tax-deductible.

● **Will there be night games?**

Yes, eventually. Once the funds are secured our plans call for lighting and security features that will enable us to schedule games at night or during the day.

● **I don't live in the City of Youngstown so why should I contribute to a stadium project?**

As go the City of Youngstown goes, so goes surrounding communities. A successful urban school system in Youngstown plays a huge role in attracting new business to this area. Renovating Rayen stadium gives Youngstown City athletes, students and the community a facility they can call home.

● **How can people learn more?**

Please visit [www.rayenstadium.org](http://www.rayenstadium.org) or call 330.740.8773. Athletic Director Ed Matey can be reached at 330.744.6955.

Contact us today with a pledge.

330.740.8773

[www.rayenstadium.org](http://www.rayenstadium.org)