

Superintendent's Message

7/31/2008

Soon it will be time to say "Welcome back to school!" It is with great pleasure that I begin a new school year as the Superintendent of the Wayne Local Schools. When I first accepted the superintendency, it was my goal to work closely with the district's leadership to continue and expand upon Waynesville's academic excellence. Over the nine years of Mr. Tom Isaacs' tenure, the district has clearly established a foundation of excellence. Waynesville Schools will enter the 2008-2009 school year again with the designation of "Excellent" by the Ohio Department of Education. This will be the fifth consecutive year for the "Excellent" rating. This achievement is something for the entire Waynesville community to be proud of, placing the Wayne Local Schools as one of a select group. I congratulate all the students, parents, staff, administration and the Board of Education for the combined effort it takes to achieve this distinction. It is difficult to achieve excellence but I remind everyone that it is even harder to maintain it. Continued excellence will again require a combined community effort, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Another major ongoing goal I established for myself was to maintain the district's financial stability. During the month of August I anticipate the Board of Education moving forward with a tax levy for the November general election. A tremendous amount of thought and discussion has taken place up to this point. I once heard a radio talk show host comment – "Public schools have never seen a tax levy they didn't like." That statement couldn't be any further from the truth. The Board of Education and the district's administration dislike going to the public and asking for additional taxes. It can be a brutal process that often divides a community. The administration of the Waynesville Schools realizes that currently we are in the midst of an unsure economy, and for that reason I expect the Board of Education to ask for a millage rate that allows the district to operate at a very fiscally responsible level. Mr. Tom Isaacs and Mr. Ron James, CFO, have a history of running the district at a low per pupil expenditure rate while still producing an outstanding product. That will remain the goal of the Board of Education and my charge as your superintendent.

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