

August 29, 2008

The week of August 25th saw the start of another academic journey and officially the 2008-09 school year is successfully off and running. The evening of Monday, August 25th, kicked off the district's levy campaign. The Spartan Room was full of stakeholders from the Wayne Local School District who wanted to know more about the November 4th tax levy. Those who attended the meeting learned that the district last passed an emergency levy in 2003. The new ballot language will renew the millage from the 2003 emergency levy plus add one additional mill the first year of the new five year emergency levy. During years two through five, the district will collect an additional \$250,000 dollars each year to offset inflationary costs of 2.5 %. This levy is purposefully phased-in to lessen the burden for our taxpayers. A traditional levy would increase taxes the full amount in the first year and we understand that in an "unsure economy" this would be difficult for many of our residents. This emergency levy reflects an effort by the district's leadership to balance the needs of the school district and respect our taxpayers. The tax levy is an investment in the school community, maintaining excellence and value. Wayne Local met all 30 of the indicators on the state report card for the second straight year on its way to being rated "Excellent with Distinction." Waynesville also met its AYP requirements and increased its performance index score from 102.8 to 103.4. Waynesville met or exceeded expected growth in mathematics for grades four through eight and was above expected levels for reading in grades four, six and eight. For traditionalists – we teach the "3 R's" and we teach them well! Only two school districts in Warren County, Waynesville and Mason have perfect district grade cards heading into 2008-09. Both districts have earned the new 'Excellent with Distinction' rating, but we do it with considerably less expenditures per pupil. If we spent at Mason's per pupil rate we would spend approximately 1.9 million dollars more per year. Wayne Local Schools is a value and truly reflects our community. "Spartan Pride Community Wide" -- Pride is everywhere and in everything Waynesville Schools do: academics, fine arts, athletics, and community service. It truly is an honor to be your superintendent and I encourage everyone to ask questions, learn as much about the levy as possible and make a well informed decision on Election Day November 4th, 2008.

Patrick Dubbs