

Recently the Ohio House of Representatives produced a report that called for Ohio to support a better school program within the state. The rationale is that “good schools mean better and more prosperous citizens, more far-sighted leaders and a better future for all of us. Expenditures for good public schools are a sound investment. Ohio cannot afford poor schools. Good public schools for all children throughout the state should be considered essential by all citizens.” (OSBA Journal)

Schools in Ohio range from excellent to very poor. During my school career I have been associated with every level of school district. The Wayne Local School District is an excellent school district. Over 2,000 voters agreed that our community cannot afford poor schools. Unfortunately that strong support base was not enough to pass our emergency levy. As a result of the November 4<sup>th</sup> election the future of the Wayne Local Schools is now very precarious. Everything that defines “excellent” education is at risk because we do not have adequate financial support. An excellent school program requires skillful teachers, competent staff members, capable leadership and an efficient organization. Class sizes must be small enough to permit teachers to work effectively with all students. Results from around the state of Ohio reveal that 62% of the levies on the ballot passed. The vast majority of those school districts are not nearly as high performing as the Wayne Local Schools; however their communities saw the value in public education.

The results of our emergency levy reveal a silver lining. The Wayne Local Schools received more “yes” votes on November 4th than at anytime in our history. Over 2,000 residents realize that it is important to the overall quality of our community to offer a better educational program than the minimum assured by the state of Ohio. We must continue to engage our very strong base of supporters regarding our financial future. We need all 2,000 plus supporters combined with new “yes’ votes to turn out in mass next election day. The Wayne Local Schools should be considered essential by all citizens whether they have children or not.

A special board of education meeting of the Wayne Local Board of Education has been scheduled on Friday, November 7, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s Office. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss levy loss implications; begin work immediately regarding the direction and timeline for a return to the ballot.

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Superintendent of Schools