

I personally want to take some time to communicate the importance of our **emergency school levy** that is on the November 4th ballot. Many of you may have recently seen the Spartan Pride, Community Wide signs that are popping up throughout Waynesville. I would like to share with you the reason behind these signs. As a new superintendent, coming in from another community, I have witnessed with fresh eyes the strong community pride in Waynesville. It has been very encouraging to see the overwhelming community support at our school events as well as the great volunteerism in support of our schools. Our school system truly serves as a cornerstone for this community.

Another impressive fact that I have witnessed is the great diligence and care that our school treasurer, school board and staff use in managing our school budget. We purposely only ask the voters to renew our operating levy every five years. We accomplish much for our school system and students on a very limited budget. In fact, our per pupil spending is one of the lowest in the state. In 2006, creative financing and bond retirement led to a tax reduction of \$92/year per \$100,000 home value.

On November 4th, we are asking for a **renewal** of our operating levy which will expire this year. We will also be requesting a small increase in order to keep up with our ever increasing operating costs and our reduced funding from the state. The increase will be **phased in incrementally** over the 5 year period of this renewal. The bottom line to tax payers will be an annual increase of **\$30 per \$100,000** of home value. We realize that any tax increase during this time of economic uncertainty is not going to be favorably met by everyone. However, it is crucial for the continued operation of our schools, providing your children with the excellent education, enriching programs and extracurricular activities that reflect community pride.

Wayne Local Schools is a highly successful partnership founded upon active collaboration between our students, staff, parents and community. Supporting the levy is an investment in a high performing school district that is the cornerstone of your community.