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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# **Lots Accomplished During The 2007 Calendar Year**

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SPRINGBORO, Ohio – Newspapers and magazines usually do a “year in review” in late December or early January. It is a good time for people to reflect on the accomplishments – or disasters – of the 365 days that seemingly flew by. I thought we would take a few minutes and do the same from Springboro Community Schools’ perspective.

The first four months of 2007 were a blur of activity for our Administration, as we were quietly completing an \$11 million project with Miami Valley Hospital. As a result, for the first time in the state of Ohio, a public school district partnered with a business to allow some major projects to be completed.

That announcement was made on May 15.

In September, Springboro dedicated CareFlight Field, a beautiful artificial turf athletic stadium. This simply could not have been done without a collaborative effort because Springboro did not – nor does it now – have \$800,000 to spend. Why is it important?

First and foremost, our athletes and marching band participants will have a safer surface on which to perform. Because of the “give” in the field, athletes are not injured nearly as often and when they are, injuries are not as severe. Secondly, it will save Springboro Community Schools and its taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars in field maintenance.

Thirdly, it will allow the school district to make enough money on hosting band invitationals, athletic events, etc. that it will offset the costs of replacement turf when it is needed in 15 years or so. This money is being set aside now with the express purpose of replacing the artificial turf when it becomes worn out.

In April of 2007, the Virginia Tech massacre happened, when a deranged college student shot and killed 33 people before committing suicide. The event shocked our nation, and made anyone associated with education reevaluate their safety procedures.

It occurred during Springboro High School's prom and graduation season, giving us the opportunity to remind students and their parents that while young people feel "immortal," an event such as Virginia Tech brings things back into perspective.

We took the opportunity to warn students about the perils of making poor decisions, like drinking and driving, and cautioned parents about the legal ramifications of allowing alcohol consumption by teen-agers on their property or even in their presence.

While the summer is quiet for many of our staff members and students, it is one of the busiest for our Central Office staff. Sandra Warner, our Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, presented us with good news once again in June. Springboro Community Schools had once again earned an "excellent" rating, its third time in four years.

Other standardized testing scores came in and in general, our students performed very well. We have areas we need to work on, and we are addressing those problems.

The beginning of school this year was probably the smoothest start in my eight years as superintendent. There were no brand new schools to get ready, no new principals to introduce to the system. Our students and staff came back ready to tackle the new year.

In September, we began the process of evaluating our budget and began seeking community input as to what type of levy and how much would be needed to operate our school district for five years. That process culminated Dec. 11 when our Board of Education voted to renew 10.5 mills at no additional cost to voters as well as add 5.99 mills of new money to pay for the additional students that will be entering Springboro Community Schools over the same time period.

In this short space, we tried to highlight some of the major events that we at Springboro Community Schools focused on during the calendar year 2007. Many, many accomplishments were not mentioned simply because of lack of space. Be assured that we are planning even greater accomplishments in 2008, and look forward to working with each member of our community during this busy time.

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