

*Springboro Community Schools
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We Are In Second Year Of Three-Year Emergency Levy

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – May is just around the corner, and I am hoping that Springboro Community Schools' residents will take notice of something on May 8 during the special election. They have nothing to vote on!

Across Warren County, most voters will be staying home as there is only one race (Mason Municipal Court Judge) and six levies for increase in taxes – none of which are in Springboro or Clearcreek Township.

I bring that to your attention only to point out that we did keep our promise in the November 2005 election when Springboro Community Schools said if the three-year emergency levy was approved, we would not be on the ballot again until 2008, when the three-year emergency levy expires. That is a promise I guarantee will be kept.

Having said that, we are less than a year away from our first opportunity to renew the levy. The emergency levy generated \$7.2 million in 2006, \$7.2 million in 2007, and \$7.2 million in 2008, which means we are in the second-year of that emergency levy cycle today. In addition, you passed a \$2 million levy in 2002. That was a five-year levy that also expires in 2008. Those two renewals will be combined into one levy so that Springboro Community Schools can operate for five years on those renewals.

As you can imagine, losing \$9.2 million out of a \$41 million annual budget would be devastating for our school district, so it is one that we must renew in order to maintain our current personnel.

I think people in our community hear so much about the growth of Springboro Community Schools that sometimes they don't realize the actual impact of adding 250 students per year. Did you know that many elementary schools in Ohio have a capacity of 400 students? In essence, we are growing by a school every 18 months.

We can handle that challenge, but just as your home becomes more expensive to run when you have an additional child or become a caregiver to an elderly family member, it takes more money.

For example, did you know that Springboro Community Schools hired 101 people last summer, of which 63 were newly-created positions? With the addition of Five Points and

Dennis Elementary Schools – each with the capacity for 1,100 students – staffs needed to grow. I am pleased to report that the first year of instruction in these schools could not be going better, and that the individuals serving this community have been strong additions to our staff.

Today, with the influx of students we see on a daily basis, we are continually watching our enrollment and how that affects class sizes. Our community was very clear they want excellent schools, and keeping class sizes to a manageable number is part of that excellence we strive to achieve each day.

Over the next several months, it is the goal of our Administration to present as much information as possible to our constituents, and answer EVERY question someone might have. If you have a column topic or question you would like to see addressed, please contact me at dbaker@springboro.org or call 937-748-3960. I will make you another promise – those questions will be taken seriously.

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