

*Springboro Community Schools
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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Board Decides Upon Levy

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Superintendent

Springboro Community Schools

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – After months of gathering data and talking to community and business leaders, Springboro’s Board of Education made the very difficult decision to place two levies on the March 4 ballot.

As I told our Board of Education at its Dec. 11 meeting, in the eight years I have been superintendent of Springboro Community Schools, we have never talked to so many people or gathered more data than we did for this levy. I have talked to other superintendents and even reporters who were surprised by the overwhelming amount of community input sought before a decision was made.

But they don’t know Springboro community residents. We learned first-hand how important it is to our residents that they have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. If you will remember about four years ago, voters overwhelmingly defeated a \$43 million bond issue that would have alleviated overcrowding in our school district. Our Board of Education and Administration received the message loud and clear. So we went to our voters and asked what they wanted. We did focus groups, surveys, and held community meetings where people were encouraged to give us their opinions, and tell us what they would support.

The result? Our community wanted a \$61.5 million project, and supported it by 1,000 votes more than was needed to pass the levy. Today, we have Five Points and Dennis elementary schools, as well as major additions at the high school and junior high. Those buildings are the direct result of our Administration and Board of Education carrying out the “will” of our community members.

Knowing this, we would not have even attempted to put a levy on the ballot without first talking to our community. We did this by hiring an outside firm that surveyed 400 people in Springboro and Clearcreek Township to get their opinions, held a community forum, talked to several civic organizations, worked with two teams of community members to formulate opinions, and finally, ran our own online survey that more than 550 people took the time to respond.

Were the results and opinions unanimous? Far from it. But there was enough of a consensus that it gave our Board and Administration the direction that it needed.

We will do our best to get as much information about the two levies that will be on the March 4 ballot out to our community over the next two months. We will be doing this in as many ways as possible in order to reach the most people.

The best way to get the most current and accurate information is still to subscribe to our weekly District Newsletter. This can easily be done by contacting Ashley McGuire at amcguire@springboro.org or by calling her at 937-748-3960. You can also sign up yourself by visiting our website at www.springboro.org, clicking “District” and then “District News.”

Nobody likes to pay more taxes. We understand that. But we also hope you understand one of the reasons our community is so strong and such a good place to live is that we do have excellent schools. We hope in the next couple of months, you think we do a good enough job in explaining why you should support your local school district that you will pass both levies on the March 4 ballot.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at dbaker@springboro.org.

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