

1.9.16

**Dear Community Members:**

It looks like winter will finally make a real appearance this week. The first snows of the year always provide a little larger challenge because it is the first time drivers have been on these kinds of roads in a while. For new drivers, it may be the first time ever. If you have newer drivers, tomorrow may be a chance to get them driving in the snow while they can be coached if needed. At a minimum, please talk with them about the need to drive slower and to provide more distance between themselves and cars ahead of them. Remind kids to just take their time and drive for the conditions.

**EMAIL FOLLOW-UP**

Last week, I sent out an email looking forward to 2016. There seemed to be some questions, and I wanted to perhaps provide a little clarification.

1. The income tax is a renewal. It is not a new tax and is unrelated to the elementary building project. It provides nearly 1/8 of our total funding to operate the district. It is the **ONLY** outside operating levy for Eastwood Schools.
2. The district **REDUCED** taxes by not seeking to renew the Emergency Levy that expired at the end of 2015. That levy is gone. It had collected \$878,000 per year.
3. There is a chance that somewhere around 2020-2021 we may need to look at trying to bring some of that money back. It may be needed to help **bridge the gap** to 2026 when the district will finish paying the bonds on the new school. In 2026, there will be nearly \$1.275 million in cash flow that will be freed up in the General Fund, which is why that year is so important. Please remember that between now and then, voters will have benefitted from lower taxes.
4. Attached is information from a chart provided to residents in another district. I added in the Performance Index which is a measure of student achievement used by the state to rank districts. It shows that we have the fourth highest Performance Index and the lowest property taxes, by far, for schools included on their comparison. Yes, some of those districts also have an income tax.
5. We have always sought to provide residents with a high quality product at an excellent price/value. We have benefitted greatly from some business investment, combined with efforts to keep expenses in line. The result is a cash position that has allowed us to reduce taxes by nearly a million dollars annually and make a \$20 million capital investment in the future of our children.

Sorry if this sounded a little defensive. While I understand that no one likes taxes, sometimes we need to look around and understand that by comparison, things are pretty good here. Our job is to help keep it that way!

If you ever have questions, feel free to give me call at [419-833-6411](tel:419-833-6411) or shoot me an email. I would love to sit down with you or some of your friends and talk about your questions or concerns.

### **DAVE RAMSEY SEMINAR**

Attached is a flyer for a Dave Ramsey Financial Peace Seminar to be held next Saturday. Sorry for not getting this out sooner, but it got buried in my inbox.

### **NOTE OF SYMPATHY**

This week we lost a father of one of our seniors, Andy Spencer. Andy was the father of 2015 grad Jessi and 2016 grad Andrea. We wish the girls all the best as they work through this tragedy. There is a gofundit account for the girls to help them with final expenses. Please consider them, and keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

### **GOOD LUCK!!**

Good Luck this weekend to all of our teams. Wrestling is in Lima, Bowling in Port Clinton, Swimmers @ BGSU, Girls BB at Home (soon) and Boys BB @ Oak Harbor. The Oak Harbor community is asking folks to wear white in the Coaches vs. Cancer game. Proceeds from tickets tonight will be donated to help with cancer research. We all have been impacted in one way or another by cancer, so let's help find a cure!

Have a great weekend!!!