

fact\$ *in a backpack*

May 2007

WCSD passes 6.5 mill levy

No ballot issues in district until at least 2010

West Carrollton School District voters voiced their confidence in their schools by passing a new operating levy on May 8.

The 6.5 mill, three year levy for general operating expenses received 2,305 yes votes and 2,011 no votes. The victory marked the first time in history the district has passed a new levy in a May election.

“There just aren’t enough ways to say thank you,” said Supt. Rusty Clifford, Ph.D. “The voters have sent a compelling message to the region that we are the school district and communities of choice.”

West Carrollton officials said they feel fortunate to have passed the levy in a state where fewer than 20 percent of May school issues were successful.

The levy will generate approximately \$2.8 million in revenue for daily operating expenses. Salaries and benefits account for 80 to 85 percent of those expenses for every school district in Ohio.

In West Carrollton, 82 percent of the general fund budget goes to salaries and benefits.

The owner of a \$100,000 home will pay an additional \$199 in taxes, beginning in January 2008.

Treasurer Ryan Slone said the district will seek to renew the levy by the end of 2010. There will be no campaigning in WCSD anytime before 2010.

During the campaign, Clifford pointed to the district’s success academically and financially and pledged again after the election that the



Students, staff and community members came out to support the West Carrollton School District at a student-led candlelight march at West Carrollton High School the night before Election Day.

momentum will continue.

“We’ve been accountable systemically, academically and financially. And I guarantee you that will continue.”

In 2004, the district received the Ohio Award for Excellence. Over the last seven years, it has seen steady improvement in test scores rising to an Effective rating on the state report card and posting a total of 167 percent improvement in the percentage of indicators met.

The district has also carefully trimmed the budget by a total of \$5.1 million over the last five years. That includes \$1.1 million in reductions that

will take place before the start of the 2007-2008 school year as promised.

The \$1.1 million includes two of four directors in the district’s central office; 16.5 faculty and staff positions; reductions in all building and department budgets; and longer-term planning of textbook and technology replacements.

Passage of the levy avoided deeper cuts in sports, activities, transportation, field trips and use of school buildings by community groups.

“Continuous improvement is an institutionalized habit in the West Carrollton School District,” Clifford said. “The quality journey continues!”

District says ‘Thank you voters!’

“We are the Pirates, mighty, mighty Pirates!”

Students and staff climbed off buses and out of cars on Wednesday May 9 chanting in victory and thankfulness. The West Carrollton School District community celebrated the passage of Issue 12 on May 8. The 6.5 mill operating levy will be on the books for the next three years as the momentum in the district continues to grow, officials said.

Board of Education Vice President Doug Hess said it was wonderful to visit the schools that day and see staff members with “ear to ear smiles.”

“Thank you, thank you, thank you!” he said during the board’s May 16 business meeting. “It certainly is an affirmation of what all of our teachers, staff and students are doing. It’s really



Staff and parents at Harold Schnell Elementary rallied for passage of the levy building a “top ten” reasons to support the school district.



WCHS student Scott Brooks portrayed “Dr No” and walked the plank during the student-led candle-light march in support of the levy.

nice that now we can all focus on what we’re here to do – teach kids.”

Board Member Leslie Miller said that while taking a long break from campaigning will be welcome, neither the board nor the district plans to stop working.

“We have a lot in front of us to get ready for the coming year,” she said. “It was wonderful to see the trust you have in us.”

Board Member Pam Gillette pointed directly to the items that would have been eliminated if the levy had failed – sports, music, activities and more.

“I hope the community continues to support us by coming to all the events we now can have.”

Board President Maribeth Graham has been using the letter “C” to illustrate various points throughout the calendar

year thus far. At the May 16 meeting, she pointed to a “C” and spoke of the “compact” the board and community have made.

“You did your part by supporting us in casting your vote,” she said. “We will do our part by continuing to be accountable.”

Board Member Tom Wolf is a 1960 graduate of West Carrollton High School and retired teacher and guidance counselor. During the campaign he emphasized the message: “All communities count and you count on your community.” In thanks, he said the levy passage was among his greatest moments in association with the district.

“I have never been more proud of the students and staff of the West Carrollton School District and the communities that support them.”

WORD FILE

thanks: [plural noun] 1. an expression of gratitude; 2. what the West Carrollton School District says to voters

FACT\$ will be taking the summer off. There will be no June issue. In July, a special issue will be produced and sent home with Schnell students. If you are not a Schnell parent and would like to receive the July issue, contact Sharon Naragon at 937-859-5121, ext. 1133 or snaragon@wcsd.k12.oh.us. Regular production will resume in September.