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COMMON MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE 2007 LEVY

Differences between the 2005 Bond Issue and the 2007 Operating Levy

1. Four Year Operating Levy vs. Bond Issue

Chagrin Falls Schools have advocated a 4-year levy cycle since the 1980's. During the Bond Issue Campaign of 2005, it was emphasized that Bond and Levy monies are different and that the school district would have to come back in 2007 for another levy to maintain the four-year financing cycle. Due to Ohio's House Bill 920, once a Levy is passed, the portion the schools receive from housing values is frozen for the length of the levy. Levy funds are used for the day-to-day operating expenses of the school. To insure that the school district would not have to come back to tax payers before the four-year cycle had ended, reductions in spending were made for the 2006-2007 school year. Since the levy did not pass in May, 1.2 million in cuts were made for the 2007-2008 school year.

Bond funds are approved by a community for construction and major renovations and improvements and cannot be used for the general operating expenses of schools on a day-to-day basis. The 2005 Bond issue has funded a complete high school kitchen renovation, new high school commons restrooms, new building roofs, technology and phone upgrades, new Harris Stadium restrooms, ventilation and heating upgrades, the Harris Stadium artificial surface, and the new District Performing Arts Center.

2. Size of the Levy

The Board of Education has approved the same size levy for this four year cycle as occurred for the 2003 levy which is 7.9 mill. Because of Ohio's school funding procedure, this is necessary in order to receive funding increases to keep pace with inflation, increased insurance rates, renegotiated contracts, increases in utility costs, and unfunded mandates from the state and national government

3. Per Pupil Spending

Chagrin Falls Schools spend less per pupil (in some cases nearly 40% less) than do many local schools including: Beachwood, Orange, Shaker Heights, Solon, Independence, and Mayfield

4. Harris Stadium Project

The installation of artificial turf at Harris Stadium cost \$889,000. The school district has already realized financial savings of approximately \$60,000 over the last two years in maintenance and water savings. In addition, if the existing turf had not been replaced, there would have been major work needed on the field to bring the field up to safe playing conditions with a projected cost of well over \$200,000. Finally, the use of this facility has increased from 50 uses to over 650 uses by the school and community due to the ability to use this field nearly every day.

5. District Performing Arts Center

The bulk of the Bond Issue was used to construct a District Performing Arts Center. The old auditorium was built in the 1940's when graduating class size was around 40. Today's graduating classes are 350% larger and the demand for an auditorium designed for the 21st century is something that will greatly benefit the entire school system and community. The school district has already become partners with various local theatrical performance groups increasing revenue and use of this new facility. This Performing Arts Center has been completed and officially opens on September 29, 2007