

Board Bits

From Streetsboro City Schools Board of Education President – Andrew Lesak

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Board President

Andrew Lesak
alesak@rockets.sparcc.org

Vice President

Brian Violi
bvioli@rockets.sparcc.org

Board Member

Denise Baba
dbaba@rockets.sparcc.org

Board Member

Kevin Grimm
kgrimm@rockets.sparcc.org

Board Member

Cynthia Pennock-
Hanish
chanish@rockets.sparcc.org

Entire Board email address:

boe@rockets.sparcc.org

Website:

www.streetsboroschools.com

Renewal Levy in November

My friend has a knack for asking me questions I may not want to hear but truly appreciate because they require me to evaluate situations differently. He likes to play devil's advocate. One question he has asked me more than once is why bother putting so much effort toward the passage of school levies. Why attend P.A.S.S. meetings? Why canvass the community? Why put up signs? Why all the fund raisers, handouts at football games, newspaper ads and phone calls to voters? These are tough questions to ask because there are no easy answers.

We all know the levies will not be going away any time soon. Our district, as well as most other's in Ohio, relies on local funding. And, with \$2.4 million in State funding cuts over the next 2 years, it seems we will need more local support. So, the levies won't stop - there will always be another one. Schools have very limited sources of additional revenue and levies are basically it. This is the current state of educational funding in our great state of Ohio, where we spend more on prisoners than students. For an interesting Plain Dealer article about some potential changes to school funding, go [here](#).

I often hear myself telling my children they only have control over one person - themselves. They can choose to blame other people but, in the end, that doesn't solve anything. They need to figure out what *they* can do to help a situation. They only have control over *their* actions and how they respond. They cannot control anyone else. As we all know, this is very difficult to remember.

And then, this past Sunday in church, the homily talked about *taking action*. It spoke about the son who said "no" but eventually did what his father asked anyway compared to the son who said "yes" but then did nothing. Which son was obeying his father? The one who *took action*. This made me think about the district. It helped remind me why I do what I do. I do it because I want to make a difference and *take action*. I want to help make something happen. I do not want to be all talk and no action. I want to do the right thing for our students, the right thing for our community, the right thing for our parents and the right thing for our district and staff. Actions speak so much louder than words. It shows people you truly care.

So, I ask you, how are you going to *take action*? What can you do to help? There are opportunities to make a difference and to get involved:

www.streetsboropass.com

"People with humility don't think less of themselves, they just think of themselves less."
Norman Vincent Peale (1898–1993) Minister, Author