Article for June 13, 2018

**Q & A with Dr. K.**

**What is the District proposing?** The District is asking to increase the operating tax levy by $0.70 from $3.4766 to $4.1766. Including the current debt service levy, the total tax levy would be $4.9528.

**Why are additional funds necessary?**

* The district has not requested a levy increase for 19 years. The current tax rate ceiling was approved in August 1999 and included a $0.32 increase.
* Expenses, including salaries & benefits, utilities, fuel and routine maintenance have gradually increased over the past 19 years.
* Merging job assignments and staff reduction have been utilized to a maximum degree to offset increasing costs.
* State and federal funding has dramatically decreased since 1999, yet program requirements have increased. There are several mandatory programs that must be provided that are not funded adequately or at all by the state or federal government. At the same time, state funding for K-12 education has declined, but the requirements remain in place.
* No state or federal funds are allocated for mandatory technology upgrades; therefore, these required upgrades must be funded locally.
* An increase in the tax levy would enable the District to continue to maintain a high quality educational experience for all students and operate with as few decreases or eliminations to services, staffing, and/or programming as possible.

**How will the money be used at Fayette Schools?**

Additional funds generated by the increased tax levy will (1) enable the district to regain some of the funding it has lost over the years in order to remain solvent; (2) help cover increasing operating costs including salaries, benefits, instructional supplies and resources, facility needs and improvements; and (3) to sustain or improve programs and technology.

**How much money will the proposed levy increase generate?**

The total assessed valuation of the Fayette R-III School District as of December 31, 2017, is $51,841,633. Multiplying the proposed levy amount by the assessed valuation divided by 100 shows an increase of $362,891. Dividing by 100 is key as the tax levy is calculated on every $100 of assessed valuation.

$51,841,633/100 x (.70) = $362,891.

**How will this proposed change affect my taxes?**

Approval of the additional tax levy would increase property tax by $.70 per $100 of assessed valuation. To calculate your tax rate increase, use the information below.

Your Real Estate Assessed Valuation: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Plus Your Personal Property Assessed Valuation: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Equals your TOTAL ASSESSED VALUATION: $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now divide your Total Assessed Valuation/100 = $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_X .70 = $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Your Increase per Year). Multiplying by the total proposed levy will show your new total tax amount.

**How does the Fayette School District operating tax rate levy ceiling compare to other districts in the county, conference, and surrounding area districts? The following chart shows each district’s operating levy, plus their debt service levy, if they have any debt, and their overall total.**

**Howard County Districts:** Glasgow $4.7745 **Fayette $3,4766 + 0.7762 = $4.2528** New Franklin $3.3455 + 0.7020 = $4.0475 **Lewis & Clark Conference Districts:** Scotland County $3.5376 Westran $3.7500 Paris $3.3018 + 0.4900 = $3.7918 Knox County $3.6188 + 0.2000 = $3.8188 Schuyler County $3.3936 + 0.8064 = $4.2000 Salisbury $4.4697 Marceline $3.8555 + 0.8000 = $4.6555 **Fayette Proposed $4.1766 + 0.7762 = $4.9528** Harrisburg $4.1015 + 1.1500 = $5.2515 **Other Area Districts** Boonville $3.3591 + 1.0699 = $4.4290 Higbee $3.5570 + 1.0000 = $4.5570 Moberly $3.2485 + 1.4423 = $4.6908 Slater $4.0539 + 0.7132 = $4.7671 Sturgeon $3.7808 + 1.2300 = $5.05085 Ashland $3.6561 + 1.4300 = $5.0861 Hallsville $3.9933 + 1.1100 = $ 5.1033 Columbia $5.0836 + 0.9710 = $6.0555