

There comes a time when you have to do what is needed even though it is a hard decision. For the past 5 years the financial support from the Idaho State Legislature has basically been level. It has not kept pace with the cost of inflation. Since 2001-2002 until 2005-2006 the amount appropriated per student has only increased by a total amount \$115.00 per student.

This level of funding has brought us to the point where we now have to ask the patrons of Teton County School District #401 to approve a supplemental levy in order for us to continue to provide the quality of education that the students, staff and patrons of this community should have. Because of the inadequate level of funding from the Idaho Legislature the school district was not able to purchase the new textbook adoption series this year. Without additional dollars we will have to continue to fall even further behind in textbook adoptions. It is our desire to stay on the state textbook adoption cycle. Staff members have averaged less than a 2 percent raise during these six years which does not keep up with the cost of inflation. We have seen class sizes grow because of a lack of space and dollars. When the new middle school comes on line in the fall of 2008 we want to be able to add some additional staff at the elementary level to help reduce class size. Without additional funding this will not be possible. We have about 500 computers in our district to serve our 1485 students. Many of our computers are over 6 years old and cannot run the more up-to-date software. Many of our computers have been donated to us from other governmental agencies when they upgrade their computers. We need to upgrade the network that we have in place to continue to comply with the testing requirements. With the new testing requirements we need to have at least 30 up-to-date computers in each of our schools computer labs. We need to have current technology available in the schools to provide our students with the best possible learning environments and teachers with the best possible teaching tools that we can.

There are many expectations being placed on the schools and without additional funding we will not be able to adequately meet these expectations. In the next few years there are a number of our quality teachers who are eligible for retirement. We need to be able to attract new staff and also retain our quality staff. Teton County School District #401 is asking for a supplemental levy to help augment staff salaries. We want to be on the state schedule for textbook adoption which means that we need about \$100,000.00 each year to just purchase new textbooks. We want to be able to upgrade our technology which includes, computer labs, classroom and teacher computers, teaching tools such as smartboards and LCD projectors. All of these technology items require a strong network. We have a good network but it is getting old and we need to be able to keep it up-to-date.

After much consideration and discussion the school board has approved a levy election to take place on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 for approval of a supplemental levy in the amount of \$2,000,000.00. A supplemental levy must be approved by a simple majority. It is for a two year period of time. The cost of this levy will be less than: \$0.13 per month for each \$1,000.00 of taxable value or \$1.56 a year for each \$1,000.00 of taxable value.

A \$275,000.00 home has a taxable value of \$200,000.00 because of homeowner's exemption of \$75,000.00.

Taxable Value	Taxes
\$200,000.00	\$313.10 per year \$ 26.07 per month
\$500,000.00	\$782.75 per year \$ 65.23 per month

I say that it will be less than because I do not have the most current market values available as of this date. When the new market values are released they will be more than the September 2006 market values and that will cause the cost per \$1,000.00 to go down even more.

Last year the Idaho Legislature in a one day special session gave property tax relief by removing all maintenance and operation costs for school districts off of the property tax roles. What this means is that a home with an assessed taxable value of \$200,000.00 is paying \$600.00 less this year than they did last year.