



May 2, 2023

Dear Edgewood Community,

Last evening, information was circulating again about the potential 24% property tax increase in Butler County. This was first learned through a Journal News article printed on March 24th. With County Commissioners and the Butler County Auditor addressing their concerns over the issue, who can predict the outcome at this time? In March, when the information was still new they proposed sending a resolution to the State addressing the unfair process and how it was not good for Butler County. The uncertainty of this issue obviously causes some frustration with the timing of the 1% earned income tax on the ballot today.

With this said, it doesn't change the following things working against the financial landscape:

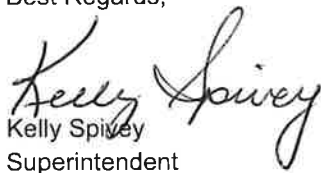
- deficit spending taking place (costs exceed amount of revenue)
- the fact that the State hasn't fixed the inequitable funding model since it was deemed unconstitutional in 1992; and
- the need to certify the district budget three years out within a five year period

The 1% earned income tax on today's ballot had to be certified in January. Even if the levy passes, the district won't see any NEW dollars until January 2025. Not knowing the timetable for the additional property tax, and knowing that some things haven't been fixed in decades, the district has to move forward to address the funding needs as they exist today. Also another consideration is that if property taxes increase, this could mean less state dollars to the district. Note: The property values are one of the variables to determine wealth when funding schools.

The district recognizes that this request couldn't come at a more difficult time in the economy. We understand that everyone wants to see Edgewood City School District succeed no matter the financial situation. We will continue to make sound decisions based on the financial affairs of the school district.

We thank you in advance for your support.

Best Regards,


Kelly Spivey
Superintendent