



The CO-PILOT

Linking the Community and Pilots of the Ayersville Schools

June 2009

www.ayersville.org

Phone – 419-395-1111

FROM THE DESK OF TOD A. HUG

May 24th was graduation day for the “Class of 2009.” The “Class of 2009” will exit our school having won over \$1,180,000 in scholarships to help them further their education. During the commencement exercises, this class was recognized for their numerous accolades in both academics and athletics. I want to wish all of the members of the “Class of 2009” the best of luck in all that they do.

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Mrs. Beverly Barnett recently announced her retirement. Mrs. Barnett has been in the Ayersville Local School District for her entire 35-year career.

Mrs. Kay Cattell, high school secretary, just recently submitted her resignation for the purpose of retirement. Mrs. Cattell has spent the past 31 years in the district.

We wish Mrs. Barnett and Mrs. Cattell a long and happy retirement. They both will be dearly missed.

Mr. Cameron VanArsdalen announced his retirement earlier this year. However, during the June regular Board of Education meeting, Mr. VanArsdalen was rehired as a retiree to continue as the high school principal. Mr. VanArsdalen agreed to a much-reduced salary of \$48,500, as he believes that the savings incurred by the district can be used to maintain other programming that is of great importance to the students of the district. This is definitely a win-win situation for the Ayersville Local Schools and for Mr. V. as he continues to work in a vocation that he loves, while the high school students and staff continue to receive his leadership in addition to the district saving nearly \$50,000 in salary and benefits.

ALL DAY/ EVERY DAY KINDERGARTEN

A new program that will begin this fall is the expansion of the Kindergarten programming.

Currently our district offers Kindergarten services on a half-time basis, which is all day, every other day. Beginning this fall we will have Kindergarten every-day, all-day, also known as “Full-Time Kindergarten”.

This past school year over 400 districts of the 612 districts in the state of Ohio provided “Full-Time Kindergarten” to their students. During the May Board of Education meeting, the Board acknowledged its support of providing this full-time programming.

Parents of incoming Kindergarten students have received specific information as to the upcoming programming.

This decision was not made overnight. We have been researching this change for the past six years. Mr. Zachrich and I began this discussion shortly after I began my post here at Ayersville. At that time, we both had studied the research and we both agreed that providing Kindergarten on a full-time basis would have a significant positive effect upon student learning.

With the numerous changes that have come out of educational reforms over the past few years, it is very apparent to the educational community that there are simply too many skills that must be learned in the kindergarten grade to expect that it can all get done, thoroughly, in a half-time program.

Kindergarten students will now be able to spend more time on subject matter, which will allow more in-depth reinforcement of the skills that are necessary in the out-years for all students to be successful.

Not all children learn at the same rates. By providing more time-on-task to our kindergarten students, more learning will take place, which will help them to be more successful in the future.

LEGISLATIVE AMMENDMENT COULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

With the leadership of State Senator Steven Buehrer and House of Representative Bruce Goodwin, an amendment was successfully placed into the Senate Version of the Biennial Budget Bill. If passed into law, this amendment will have a profound effect on the amount of funding that our district could receive for a potential new school construction project.

As has been reported before in other school publications, our district has lost valuation due to changes to our school funding structure back in July 2005. Unfortunately, the formula used to establish our state share for an OSFC project is still based on our previous valuations, which were over 25% more than our current district valuation.

As the law currently reads, our state share for an OSFC project is 42%. If this amendment submitted by Senator Buehrer and supported by Representative Goodwin remains a part of the Budget Bill, our state share is projected to be over 60%. This means the majority of the funding for a future project would be funded through the OSFC, rather than through local taxes.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT LEVY

At the June Board of Education meeting, the Board of Education approved the first of two resolutions needed to place the renewal of the 2.0 mill Permanent Improvement Levy (P.I. Levy) on the November 3, 2009, general election ballot.

District voters first approved this P.I. Levy in November 1984. The funds for this P.I. Levy are used for improvements and repairs to buildings and grounds and for purchase of equipment that have a life of five years or more.

This P.I. Levy Renewal was defeated, narrowly, in May 2009, with 26% of the registered voters exercising their right to vote. Of the \$156,000 raised by this levy, \$57,000 of it is in reimbursement funds from the state. Should this P.I. Levy renewal fail on November 3, 2009, this state funding will be lost, and cannot be reinstated in a future levy. To retain these state funds the P.I. Levy Renewal would need to be approved by voters on November 3, 2009.

Using a \$100,000 house as an example, this P.I. Levy costs 9¢ per day, \$2.75 per month or \$32.99 per year.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE ISSUES

Many facility repair projects are in the process or soon will be. For this reason, access to certain areas of the school will be impacted. Some of these projects are made possible through the use of the Permanent Improvement Levy. This levy allows the district to effect repairs and renovations without using moneys from the General Fund.

Plumbing and Steam Pipes: The years have not been kind to our plumbing and steam pipes in the middle school area. Built in 1952, the pipes are in poor condition. We have spent P.I. funds in past years throughout this area to ensure that we have adequate hot and cold water flow to the lobby restrooms in the 1952 gym and locker room areas. Each year we have additional leaks throughout the structure for which we must expend Permanent Improvement funds in order to replace pipes where the leaks are originating. As the year ended, various areas in the middle school were without hot water due to the complete occlusion of pipes, which could not allow hot water to pass through them. Additionally, we have experienced numerous steam pipes developing holes from their years of use. Unfortunately, these repairs are in ceilings, in walls or under floors, which are difficult to get to and expensive to repair.

Painting and plaster repair: Numerous rooms throughout the building will be receiving new coats of paint and plaster repairs as needed.

Sealing of Pavement: We will be sealing pavement on the northeast corner of the elementary and the south parking lot of the high school. This work is anticipated to be completed during the month of July.

Fence Repair/Replacement: Winter storms have caused damage to the Varsity Baseball backstop. We are in the process of working with the school property insurance carrier to recover costs for repairs and/or replacements of this damaged fence. Repairs have had to be delayed due to the spring and summer baseball schedule.

Roof Replacement over the 1965 Elementary Addition: Another project soon underway will be the replacement of the roof membrane over the 1965 Elementary addition. This is due to the deterioration of the existing roof membrane.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE "CLASS OF 2009"

Did you know...

- ...of the 76 members of this class, 45% will be pursuing a Bachelor's degree;
- ...35% will be pursuing an Associate's Degree;
- ...4% will be pursuing a one-year program;
- ...5% of the graduates will be pursuing careers in the military;
- ...11% of the graduates will be pursuing competitive employment.

Good Luck to the "Class of 2009!"

STAFF MEMBERS HONORED AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Teachers, administrators, and support staff received recognition awards on May 29 at the annual staff recognition luncheon.

5 years

Chris Dales

Cameron VanArsdalen

10 years

Steve Brown

Rosie Kieffer

15 years

Val Cline

John Lime

Darlene Lloyd

20 years

Kim Oelke

25 years

Jennifer Florence

30 years

Deborah Bush

Robert Fett

Teri Nicely

Lori Wagner-Wenner

Bobbi Yeager



Special recognition went to Elaine McBride (35 years), Beverly Barnett (35 years and retirement), and Scott Fisher (retirement).

EIGHTH GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



Thirty-eight 8th graders and ten chaperones visited Washington, D.C. Wednesday, May 13, and returned Saturday, May 16.

During the trip to D.C., the group visited a multitude of memorials and monuments, including the Capitol, Arlington Cemetery, White House, National Archives, Smithsonian, and Mt. Vernon.

The group also enjoyed the experience of eating buffet-style meals throughout their stay in Washington.

ITEMS FOR SALE - Due to the following items being obsolete, they will be on sale in the cafeteria on Tuesday, July 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Approximately 25 keyboards

Approximately 20 network hubs

1 US robotics modem

3 scanners

Elementary & Middle School library books

10 CD cases

11 TVs

3 ink jet printers

8 carts/media carts

3 overheads

1 wireless access point

6 pull-down screens

Metal teacher's desk

AYERSVILLE LOCAL SCHOOL
28046 WATSON ROAD
DEFIANCE OH 43512

Non-Profit
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTAL CUSTOMER

ADDRESSES NEEDED...If you know of someone in the Ayersville Local School District who does not receive this newsletter, please call Phyllis at 419-395-1111 ext. 400. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Elementary

419-395-1111 x 300
Ron Zachrich, Principal

Middle School

419-395-1111 x 200
Martin Miller, Principal

High School

419-395-1111 x 200
Cameron VanArsdalen, Principal

Board of Education

Craig McKibben, President
Denny Martin, Vice President
Lisa Brown, member
Mark Diller, member
Bob Luderman, member

CALENDAR

July 13	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the high school library
July 16-18	DARE camp
Aug. 9-13	Band camp
Aug. 10	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the high school library
Aug. 19	Freshmen orientation, 1:30 p.m. in auditorium
Aug. 24	Band performance at County Fair in Hicksville
Aug. 24	First day of school for FCCC juniors
Aug. 25	First day of school for FCCC seniors
Aug. 28	Meet the Teacher Night for grades K-4
Aug. 31	First day of school for students
Sept. 3	Middle School Open House, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Sept. 14	High School Open House, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Sept. 15	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the high school library