



# The CO-PILOT

Linking the Community and Pilots of the Ayersville Schools

February 2010

419-395-1111  
www.ayersville.org

## FROM THE DESK OF TOD A HUG

### **Income Tax and School Funding: "In a Nutshell"**

This past November, district residents approved the renewal of the 2.0 mill 5-year Permanent Improvement Levy. During these difficult economic times, we are all very hard-pressed to vote positively for tax levies, even when the levy is not for the purpose of additional taxes, which was the case with this levy.

However, during the levy informational meeting and in an editorial in the Crescent-News, questions arose as to the need of this renewal levy since the passage of the 1% income tax in November of 2007.

***"In a nutshell," the 1% income funds are in replacement of funds lost due to legislation passed by the Ohio General Assembly in July 2005.*** Due to this legislation (HB66), our school district lost over \$600,000 each year in funds from payments in lieu of taxes from enterprise zone agreements with local industry.

The 1% income tax was originally projected to raise \$800,000 per year. However, due to the economy, we anticipate collections to be less.

The Board of Education has kept a close eye on spending by actually decreasing expenditures the past three years while continuing to experience the ever-increasing costs of doing business. We, too, have tightened our belt, long before this recession became apparent.

My point is that the 1% income tax was not entirely new money that should be considered all the funds needed to maintain a stable financial picture for our school. The majority of these funds raised by the income tax offset funds taken away from us via changes in state law.

### **OSFC Legislation**

I have had numerous inquiries from district residents concerning when we will have the opportu-

nities to pursue a building project for our district. In response to this question, I can report that our district has been offered the opportunity to participate in the Ohio School Facilities Commission's Classroom Facilities Assistance Program with a local share of 55% and a state share of 45%.

The most important question affecting our district is, "When will the OSFC recognize our current district valuation, rather than our valuation five years ago?"

Due to the changes legislated back in July 2005, our district has lost 30% of our valuation. However, the OSFC formula used to rank schools and determine the share between the state and the local district does not acknowledge this lower valuation and still recognizes the higher valuation from 2005.

Here is a hypothetical question: If you are in need of a new house, and someone offers to pay 45% of the cost to replace your house, would you take it? Let's go one step further... What if someone else came up to you and offered you 65% of the cost to replace your house? Which deal would you take??

Well, that is where our district currently stands. The OSFC is offering us a state share of 45% of the cost of a construction project; but, based on our current valuation, we should be getting at least 65% of the costs picked up by the OSFC. We are still working with our local legislators in an attempt to correct this "anomaly" in the OSFC formula; but as of this writing, we have not been able to get this done. Discussions are continuing in Columbus to rectify this issue in our favor, which would make the local share of a project lower for the district, if and when a project is approved by voters.

In the meantime, we have to maintain what we have. Roofs must be fixed. Walls and ceilings  
Continued...

must be painted, and rusted and clogged pipes must be replaced.

School buildings were originally designed with a lifespan of 40-50 years. With our original building constructed in 1937 and additions in 1952, 1959, and 1967, we are at the end of their projected lifespan which necessitates higher costs of maintenance.

### **School Website: "Under Construction"**

If you have not had the opportunity to look at our website, we invite you to do so. The address is [www.ayersville.org](http://www.ayersville.org).

Shane Patacca, Technology Coordinator, and Phil Liebrecht, Computer/Technology teacher, have committed much time and effort in creating a website that is functional and easily utilized. All work on our website is performed "in-house," by Mr. Patacca and Mr. Liebrecht in addition to staff and students. Many school districts work with outside vendors, costing thousands of dollars a year to maintain their sites.

Not only are we saving money with the upkeep of our website, but our students are gaining valuable experience developing and maintaining the website. In fact, our students and our teachers are able to "publish" articles on the website, exhibit class projects, highlight school events or report the results of extracurricular activities. It is for this reason that we have chosen to develop and maintain our website. Through hands-on experience, our Ayersville High School students are able to learn how to use the technology.

You may notice that our website is not as fancy as the "out-sourced" websites, but we believe that it is a benefit for our students and staff to be able to learn how to use the web design software.

Please consider this when you compare our site to another school's website because ours is always "under construction" as our students continue to learn more and more about the task of website construction and maintenance.

As our curriculum evolves and our teaching staff and students gain experience, you will see constant changes in what we can do with our website.

### **Mr. Wayne Erickson Appointed to the Board of Education.**

At a special board meeting held on Saturday, January 23, Mr. Wayne Erickson was appointed as an Ayersville Local School Board member, filling the open position.

Seven eligible district residents formally applied for the open position. The Board of Education interviewed each applicant. Following the interviews the board members voted to appoint Mr. Erickson. His term will run through December 31, 2011. Mr. Erickson had served on the Board of Education from 1994 to 2006.

### **Lawsuit with AEA Settled**

Recently it was reported in the Crescent-News that the lawsuit filed by the Ayersville Education Association, OEA/NEA against the Ayersville Board of Education was settled.

This lawsuit was in response to an interpretation of language contained in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the AEA and the Ayersville BOE. As part of this MOU the Board of Education was to reimburse five teachers for funds lost due to a change of health insurance, which limits the coverage of spouses who could get coverage from their own place of work, called spousal limitation. This is now common practice in the health insurance realm and helps to lower the cost of providing insurance to our staff.

The District and AEA followed the negotiated grievance process and were involved in binding arbitration; however, the arbitrator ruled that the grievance was not arbitrable, as the MOU was not a part of the master agreement. This provided the AEA the legal recourse of taking the issue to the court of common pleas, rather than accepting the arbitrator's decision.

Due to the cost of litigation, it was determined that settling the case out of court was more practical than paying the cost of litigation.

The entire cost of the settlement with the AEA was \$2,498.80, while according to estimates of the school district's legal counsel, the cost to go to trial could have been over \$20,000.

## **Ayersville School Musical News**

The directors and students have been working hard since January 11 to present **GREASE** later on this spring. **Grease** goes on stage:

Friday, March 26, 8:00 pm  
 Saturday, March 27, 8:00 pm  
 Sunday, March 28, 2:00 pm

All seats are reserved and prices are:  
 \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

Tickets will go on sale to the public beginning the week of March 1. Lori Wagner-Wenner is your ticket source in the high school office, 419-395-1111 x100.

## **SOHIRAY NEWS**

### **Attention Parents of Seniors~**

Baby pictures need to be submitted to the yearbook staff as soon as possible. Also, senior photos from the photographer of your choice should be submitted by April 1.

### **Information concerning 2010 yearbook orders~**

Be sure to order your SOHIRAY either on-line or via the form brought home by your student. Yearbooks are \$40.00, and personalization stamping is \$5.00.

If any overprints are available next September, the price will be \$60.00 each.

Elaine Fedderke, Yearbook Advisor  
 efedderke@ayersvilleschools.org  
 419-395-1111 ext. 114

## **OMEA Solo & Ensemble News**

The annual Ohio Music Educator Association Solo and Ensemble Contest was held at Bryan City School for District 1 participants on Saturday, January 23. Ayersville High School was well represented. Here are the results.

Emily Thieroff, Violin Solo, Excellent Rating; Anjelica Moreno, Piano Solo, Superior Rating

**Women's Ensemble earned a Superior Rating and the performers were:** Kayla Conley, Sara Ferguson, Maura Graves, Katie Lawson, Emily Luderman, Candace McCullough, Sydney Sroufe, Paige Waisner, Maria Weber.

**Men's Ensemble earned a Superior Rating and the performers were:** Zach Claud, Dillon Flint, Allen Gibbs, Phillip Inbody, Thomas Kent, Shane Miller, Kent Nagel.

**Mixed Ensemble earned a Superior Rating and the performers were:** Britni Brown, Zach Claud, Kayla Conley, Sara Ferguson, Dillon Flint, Allen Gibbs, Maura Graves, Nina Herter, Phillip Inbody, Emily Kent, Thomas Kent, Katie Lawson, Emily Luderman, Kaleigh Martin, Candace McCullough, Tylor McIlvain, Shane Miller, Kent Nagel, Hadassah Roberts, Sydney Sroufe, Paige Waisner, Maria Weber, Cassidy Wenner.

The Ensemble groups were under the direction of Jane Strata.

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## POSTAL CUSTOMER

### **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 100  
Cameron VanArsdalen, Principal

### **Board of Education**

Bob Luderman, President  
Mark Diller, Vice President  
Jack DeLano, Member  
Wayne Erickson, Member  
Dan Wagner, Member

### **CALENDAR**

March 6	Booster summer ball signup, 10 am.-noon
March 15	Board of Education regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the high school library
March 18	Dev. Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conf.
March 19	Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Conf.
March 26, 27	"Grease" in R.B.L. Aud., 8:00 p.m.
March 28	"Grease" in R.B.L. Aud., 2:00 p.m.
Mar. 29-Apr. 2	Four County Spring Break
Mar. 31-Apr. 5	Spring Break for Ayersville, NO SCHOOL
April 6	Classes resume
April 13	Grades 5 & 6 Vocal Program, R.B.L. Aud., 7:30 p.m.
April 15	Kindergarten Clinic
April 19	Board of Education regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the high school library
April 23	Family Fun Night (PTO Carnival)