

GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE MEETS

The Grass Roots Committee for Better School Facilities in the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District held its initial meeting on Tuesday evening, February 22, 2005 at the Ohio Valley Career & Technical Center. Approximately fifty persons signed-in who were in attendance. Another handful of interested persons came in late and did not sign-in. The next meeting will be March 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ohio Valley CTC. Given the fact that it was the first such meeting of its kind to promote new elementary facilities for our school district, I was pleased with the interest, enthusiasm, and size of the audience present for this meeting. Included in the audience were Kevin Kreuz and Herb Gardner representing our selected architectural firm of Steed Hammond Paul, Inc.

An informative power point presentation was presented to the audience. During the presentation, I shared with those in attendance the purpose for the meeting, the mission and goal ahead of us, and established a rough timeline that we will need to stay focused on as we prepare for the November 2005 election. In addition, pictures of our present facilities, along with pictures of the many new or newer facilities that we have visited, were shared with the audience. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions about the project. The representatives from SHP assisted me in providing as many answers to questions as we could, as did our Treasurer, Eric Toole. Of course, there are two main questions for which there are no firm answers at the moment. One of those is the location of the new buildings along with the grade make-up of the elementary facilities. This will be determined in due time. The second main question that we all are anxious to learn the answer to is what our state/local match for our building project will

be. This figure is naturally of great interest to everyone. I had a conversation with the folks at Resource International on Thursday. This organization assigned Freytag Associates to conduct the recent audit of our present facilities over the past two months. That audit has been completed so I still feel that we have an excellent chance of knowing our state/local match sometime in March.

It was my feeling that finding a single chairperson to head up the committee to promote our building project would be a difficult thing to do for a couple of reasons. Our district is a large one, so that makes it a difficult task for just one person to chair this project. Plus, it's almost impossible to find an individual that would be willing to assume such a responsibility who would be well known in all of our communities. Therefore, I decided to pitch the idea of tri-chairpersons from each of our attendance areas. Someone from the audience suggested that two chairpersons from each attendance area might be a more workable solution, so that is the route that we chose. I am so pleased and proud of those who stepped up to the plate and accepted the challenge and responsibility of taking on leadership positions. These six individuals will be formally introduced at our next community-wide meeting.

The next meeting of this district-wide committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ohio Valley Career & Technical Center. I sincerely hope that all who were present on February 22nd will be back on March 29th. I also hope that you will each bring someone else with you to the meeting. We should be able to discuss our state/local match with a great deal of certainty. At this meeting, we will also finalize all

the chairperson positions. We also need to come up with an official name for our organization, so I would encourage you to do some brainstorming between now and March 29th. Once the leadership positions have all been filled and the group has an official name, the committee treasurer can open an account and begin accepting monetary donations to assist in financing the campaign for new buildings. I would think that some of the future meetings of the committee would be held in the elementary buildings in each of our attendance areas. These, of course, would be after the meeting on March 29th.

I have already been asked to present the power point presentation to the Adams County Chamber of Commerce at their April 26th meeting, and I have asked our chairpersons to join me at that meeting. Over the next few months, I would be happy to accommodate any group interested by sharing this power point presentation. Just give me a call to reserve a time on my calendar. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. I hope to see more of you on March 29th.

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

This is just a reminder to all that there will be no school for students on Wednesday, March 23, 2005, due to staff development. Spring Break is scheduled to begin on Thursday, March 24, and run through Monday, March 28, 2005. Classes will resume on Tuesday, March 29, 2005.