

## LOOKING FORWARD

This will be my first column for the year 2005. As I reflect back on the events of 2004 that had a profound effect on our schools, it causes me to pause and catch my breath. Since I have written about these events throughout the year, I will not expand on them in this article. Rather, I prefer to look forward to what lies ahead with guarded optimism.

First and foremost, we will continue to work as a united school district staff to address student academic needs with regard to the Local Report Card. We must believe that all students' scores are important. We must believe in the basic foundation upon which the No Child Left Behind federal law was enacted. And, we must believe in our collective ability to get the job done at a higher rate of success with each passing year. We welcome the support of our parents and communities through volunteer efforts in our schools to help in the accomplishment of this goal.

Secondly, and almost just as important, we must prepare for either a bond levy or a permanent improvement levy on the November 2005 ballot to build new elementary schools in the district. These schools will be built to serve all three of our attendance areas. Hopefully, we will also be doing renovation work at each of our high schools as well as the career and technical center. With the beginning of 2005 will come the start of innumerable meetings by various school and community groups as we plan for these new buildings and the November 2005 election. I would encourage you to watch the local paper for planning/meeting opportunities and to get involved. We can use your ideas,

thoughts, and your support in this exciting project to serve our communities for decades in the future.

Thirdly, in the near future we will have to address our general fund projections by asking voters for more operating money. This is something that may be postponed until 2006, but it will have to be addressed at that point unless something changes with Ohio's funding formula for public schools. Let me share this much with you right now. More operating money will be needed to maintain the present levels of staffing and program offerings to students whether or not we build our much needed elementary schools. You can bring in a new superintendent and a new treasurer, but that won't change the fact that our operating costs are increasing at a rate that is in excess of our incoming funds to operate and provide all of our current programs. Much of the increased operating costs can be attributed to the increasing cost of health insurance. Therefore, I plan to write more about this need in 2005 and 2006.

It was a hectic holiday season, especially with all of the problems brought on by the recent ice storm. The board members and I hope that all of you were able to enjoy quality time with your families. The recent harsh winter weather gave us another opportunity to realize that there are always friend and neighbors who are less fortunate than others, and who depend on their neighbors to look out for them. After all, in a rural area like ours, we are all neighbors.

## EARLY 2005 WISH

The Annual County Science Fair will be coming up on February 17, 2005. We sincerely hope that those organizations and businesses that have supported us in this endeavor in the past will continue to do so. We need and very much appreciate your support. We have recently been informed that one of our major sponsors will not be participating this year. This is indeed unfortunate, but also a part of the process. If your business or organization would be interested in promoting science education through the sponsorship of awards at the 2005 County Science Fair, please let us know. All that you need to do is contact Mr. Harry Smittle at 544-5586. Mr. Smittle is the Director for this county-wide event. In the Manchester area, contact Mr. Robert Ralstin or Mrs. Pam Kissick at 549-3971. They are coordinating efforts for the County Science Fair in the Manchester Local School District.

## THANK YOU

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who participated in the Superintendent's Survey on our district website. That link was removed as of the end of the day on December 15th. Your input was used as one of the tools for the evaluation process of the superintendent. I can speak for the members of the board in saying thank you to those who did participate in the survey.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent