

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

As you read this article, we are less than one week from our first regular Board of Education Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010. As you may remember, January is School Board Recognition Month. Hopefully, we can agree that the direction of this school district through its Board of Education has certainly been a positive one. Our students and our staffs are benefitting from the leadership of the Board of Education. So, what better time than now to thank our school board members for their efforts on behalf of our children, parents, and taxpayers? Being a good and responsible school board member is a tough one. It comes with many decisions, often difficult ones, that have to be made. It is a labor of love for the most part because the salary is pretty low. This is especially true when you consider that our Board tries to be conscious of the taxpayers' dollars. Therefore, every effort is made to meet only once per month in order to save money. In these economic times, we are always looking for ways to stretch our dollars. As someone once said, "If it was easy, everyone would do it."

Another important meeting is also coming up in less than a week. This meeting, scheduled for January 26th in Columbus, will be held for the purpose of learning more from our state officials about the possibilities of creating a new Joint Vocational School District here in Adams County. In addition to several state-level officials, representatives from the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District and the Manchester Local School District will travel to our capital city for this important meeting. If nothing else comes from this meeting other than learning that our previous financial projections were correct, then I will personally consider this to have been worth the day and the trip to and from Columbus.

While the recent passage of the Budget Bill Amendment by the Ohio Senate was a wonderful short-term benefit for schools across the state, it was nonetheless a temporary fix to a growing problem. The JVSD piece to this puzzle also has the possibility of providing a benefit and relief

to our budget even though the process as to how this might be is a rather complicated one to fully understand. In the end, at least for the foreseeable future, our district will continue to explore every avenue for cutting the costs that are covered by the general fund. This has been a part of our strategy in dealing with projected deficits since this all became apparent to us about a year ago.

Thanks to the passage of SB/HB 318, the AC/OVSD should end FY2010 with a positive cash balance of close to \$2.9 million. This sounds like a huge amount of money, and it is. However, it is not enough to cover three pay periods for all of our district employees. Therefore, we have to look for ways to trim our general fund budget even more in FY2011. Nothing much has changed on our financial front. It has merely been delayed for a year. It will be our district goal to announce any changes in programs or services for the 2010-2011 school year to our staff, students, and parents by April 30, 2010. It is possible that some of the cuts that will need to be made will occur through resignations and retirements. If not, then other opportunities for reducing costs will have to be examined.

If you have any questions about this article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586.

Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent