



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

January 17, 2019

January is Board Appreciation Month!

Boards of education are a mature and tested institution in Ohio. School board members make policies; approve contracts with employees; choose curriculum; adopt budgets; and select a superintendent, treasurer and business manager to administer the district. They do all these tasks with the emphasis on what's best for the children they serve.

Being an effective school board member is no easy task, particularly in today's climate of change and challenge. School board members need to be knowledgeable about many complex education and social issues, and carry out initiatives and directives from both federal and state governments. To face these demands of governing our public schools, they give countless hours of personal time.

A public board of education is a legislative body of citizens elected locally by their communities. Most Ohio school boards consist of five or seven members who serve four-year terms of office. The number of board members for career center boards of education varies. Members usually are appointed for one-year terms representing their "home" districts. As co-partners with the General Assembly, which created boards of education, school board members are designated to carry out the constitutional mandate to administer the school system of each district.

Through dedicated, responsible endeavors, school board members serve the public interest in public education — and serve the needs of our kids. They ensure that decisions about public schools are made as close to the needs of our communities as possible. Their public service is an excellent example for young and old alike of the tradition of volunteerism that is a hallmark of American society.

This January, local communities are invited to honor the contributions and dedication of their local school board members — those locally elected citizens who make decisions that affect, influence and direct the education of our youth.

Our school board is just one of the more than 700 boards across Ohio. Let's say "thank you" to those who participate in what is perhaps the purest form of grassroots democratic principles upon which our republic was founded.

Our school board members do make a difference in our community, for every child, every day. We are privileged to have the following board members who diligently serve the community of Columbus Grove:

Brad Brubaker (23 years)

Brian Jones (11 years)

Ken Kruse (11 years)

Brent Stechsulte (11 years)

Ned Stechsulte (13 years)

Longtime Health and Physical Education Teacher Connie Arthur Retiring at the End of the 2018-19 School Year

At the January 14 Board of Education meeting, the Board accepted the resignation of Connie Arthur for the purpose of retirement at the conclusion of this school year. Connie has been a longtime teacher at Columbus Grove, as she replaced former Health/P.E. teacher Emma Pleiman. Connie has been a wonderful educator and coach during her tenure at Columbus Grove, as she can always be seen with a smile on her face and a positive attitude! It is teachers like Connie that make Columbus Grove Schools a wonderful learning environment for the young people of our community. Connie will be greatly missed, but we are thankful for her 24 years of excellent service to our district!

Coach Brian Schroeder Reaches Milestone Win

Last Saturday, the Lady Bulldogs basketball team beat the Leipsic Vikings, marking Coach Brian Schroeder's 100th win as the girls' basketball coach at CGHS. What's even more impressive is that it only took 5 ½ seasons to accomplish this achievement. Congratulations, Brian, and thanks for all your efforts to make the girls' basketball program one of the best in the area!

Athletic Boosters' Reverse Raffle Date set for March 9th

Over 100 tickets have already been purchased for this year's Reverse Raffle. This is the CG Athletic Boosters' main fundraising project for each year. Please contact Jennifer Pingle at 659-5801 if you are interested in purchasing tickets for this year's event. The American Legion will again be preparing steak and chicken dinners for the meal. Tickets will also be available for sale at upcoming home basketball games. Tickets may be purchased at the 50/50 raffle table. Get your tickets soon, as tickets sold out for last year's raffle over two weeks before the event. Thank you in advance for your support for this cause!

Guidance Department Hosts Second Quarter Career Chat

On Wednesday, January 9th the Columbus Grove guidance department hosted the 2nd quarter Agriculture Career Chat. The students heard from the following speakers: Mark Hoorman, Gary Morman and Jeff Schulte.

Gary Morman is a Columbus Grove High School graduate who is a Family Farm Owner/Operator. He worked for 17 years before retiring from his job in 2012 to become a full time farmer. He encouraged students that as a farmer he relies heavily on the technology to collect information about his farm equipment and crops. This is very important to keep his farm running as efficient as possible. Looking back to his high school classes, he realizes the importance of mathematics, business, science and government. He is reliant on the laws and state representative that pass laws that will affect how he can carry out certain functions on his farm. Science is important because he needs to understand the soil, seeds and proper amount of chemicals along with many other science-related farming topics. As a family farm owner it is also important to plan financially for the good years by investing money wisely so there is income when the bad years come. Mr. Morman noted when looking for a career it is important to find something that you want to do and not worry about what your friends or others are doing.

Mark Hoorman is an Ottawa-Glandorf High School graduate who enjoyed working on the neighbor's farm growing up. After high school he attended Ohio State University and studied Animal Science. He has held several positions after college. As a District Sales Manager he called people who owed the company money and sometimes had to go to homes to collect money in person. He was a Buyer which required a lot of travel which could be time consuming and stressful. For 15 years, he worked sales for Agronomy. He learned a lot on the job before his current job working Agronomy Production. He is in charge of 7,000 acres, managing people, equipment and crops. Technology is very important in his current position, and he uses drones to collect data and satellite images of the farms. He works one-on-one with Jim Hoops, state representative, concerning water quality. He feels it is important that we have individuals that are able to do the technical jobs to help support farmers.

Jeff Schulte is a Kalida High School graduate who admitted that school was not his thing. In high school he enjoyed working on the turkey farm, grandmother's farm, construction jobs, and at the local hardware. He enjoyed hands on activities. His junior and senior years he attended Vantage Career Center originally thinking he would study Carpentry, but eventually chose Machine Tool Technology. In this field he was required to study higher level mathematics and physics and his academic classes finally made sense to him because he could see how he was going to use this in his field. After high school he attended Owens Community College and then transferred to Eastern Michigan University to study Manufacturing Technology. After working a while, he earned his MBA at UNOH. He has held several positions that included PSI, WC Woods and currently works as a Manufacturing Engineer at Unverferth Manufacturing in Delphos. In his current role as the floor engineer he figures out how to set up a job and make things run more efficiently. When looking to hire people, he noted they are looking for individuals who know technical things such as machining, welding, robotics, auto body, or mechanics.

Thank you to our speakers who were able to share their experience and expertise at the 2nd Quarter Career Chat for Agriculture. Who knew you needed to know such much about government, business, science and mathematics to run a farm?

Upcoming Dates:

Thursday, January 17th

Boys JH Basketball @ Fort Jennings HS – 5:00 pm

Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Kalida HS – 5:00 pm

Friday, January 18th

Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Van Buren Invitational – 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 19th

Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Van Buren Invitational – 9:00 am

Boys Freshman Basketball vs. St. Mary's – 10:00 am

Girls JH Basketball @ Continental – 10:00 am

Girls Varsity and JV Basketball vs. Miller City – 12:30 pm

Boys Varsity and JV Basketball vs. Kalida – 6:00 pm

Monday, January 21st

No School – Martin Luther King Day