



Superintendent's Report

Submitted by Nick Verhoff

January 4, 2024

Thank You, Brad "Bubba" Brubaker!

The December Board of Education meeting marked the last meeting for Brad "Bubba" Brubaker, who is stepping down after 28 years of service to Columbus Grove Schools. During Bubba's distinguished tenure on the Board of Education at Columbus Grove, the district has experienced many changes and accomplishments. Here is just a small sample:

- **Academics-** A Top 75 High School annually (U.S. News and World Report), multiple State Momentum Awards for CG Middle School, the highest star composite rating in Putnam County for the state's 2023 School Report Card, the creation of and Intellectually Delayed (ID) unit in the building, adding a county ESC unit, allowing more CG students to receive their education at their home campus, and multiple character education programs and initiatives established
- **Permanent Improvements-** \$27 million school building construction project, construction of the 2011 Bulldog Athletic Facility (and 2020 expansion), coaches' room/storage addition, and softball building
- **Massive Expansion of Technology-** Every classroom has a Smartboard or interactive television. There are over 1,400 computers/devices in use in our school district (nearly triple the number compared to 2010). The Columbus Grove Digital Academy started in 2015.
- **Personnel-** Nearly 90% turnover and transition of staff during his Board tenure
- **Financial-** The district currently stands in a financially secure position and has for many years. It has experienced multiple successful renewal levy campaigns and has not had to go to the voters for additional operating funds in over 25 years. Columbus Grove Local Schools is still tied for the lowest income tax rate in Putnam County with

three other schools.

This sort of change, growth, and stability in a school district requires steadfast leadership from its Board of Education. Bubba has been the common denominator for our district's Board of Education for nearly three decades. We are an even better school district than before because of Bubba's service and stewardship to Columbus Grove Schools.

While all the changes and growth that has occurred during his tenure are noteworthy, Bubba has always known what is most important in moving our district forward- relationships and people. There have been numerous times over the years that he has gone out of his way to reward and recognize staff and students by purchasing pizza and breakfast out of his own pocket, among other items. His positive and upbeat attitude with all staff members he interacted with has been much appreciated.

When operating any organization, situations will arise when not everyone agrees. As superintendent, I greatly appreciate Bubba's willingness to listen to others' perspectives. His unassuming and patient approach has allowed us to work through each challenging decision in a thorough, yet collaborative manner.

While Bubba's 28-year tenure on the school board is quite impressive, it is just one facet of his life dedicated to public service. The past fall, Bubba retired from the Putnam County Sheriff's Department after an outstanding career in law enforcement, including serving as the county's 911 Coordinator for many years.

He also served on the Board for Domestic Violence Awareness through Buckeye Sheriff's Association. Locally, Bubba served on Columbus Grove EMS from 1988-2014 and was President of the Columbus Grove

Alumni Association for over 25 years.

Bubba is the embodiment of the meaning of service and not only has Columbus Grove Schools been a fortunate recipient of his dedication for nearly three decades, but the entire county as well. Thank you, Bubba, for all you have given to our school district, community, and Putnam County!

Thank You, CG Parent Karmen Busick!

A few years ago, the CG Guidance Department and School Nurse Katie Zimmerly collaborated to create a Caring Closet for all K-12 students. This closet contains personal hygiene products and CG school attire for our students in need. The Columbus Grove School Caring Closet's mission is to serve our most vulnerable students and those who are in need of a little extra help with obtaining daily necessities; those students who are striving to do well academically, but need an extra boost to ensure their focus can be on their education and not on meeting their basic needs. Over the past four years, this program has helped hundreds of CG students.

The Caring Closet is stocked primarily through donations and we have been blessed by the generosity of our community. One particular parent and Procter & Gamble employee, Karmen Busick has been integral in providing much needed supplies to this closet. She has worked with P&G management on multiple occasions coordinating multiple contributions of toiletries to help stock this closet! The Caring Closet received its most recent shipment last month, right in time for the holidays. We greatly appreciate Karmen's efforts, as these contributions will help many CG students in the upcoming months. Thank you, Karmen!

Tentative Change to this Year's School Calendar on April 8

On Monday, April 8, Ohio residents within a 124-mile-wide band in the state of Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. As many of you are aware, Columbus Grove is located within this band, which will make our area an ideal location for umbraphiles (term for solar eclipse aficionados) to camp out to view this event.

Schools in the area have been creating alternative plans for this day, as we have been made aware from multiple state entities that our region will be inundated with eclipse chasers during the time leading up to this total solar eclipse.

Putnam County Schools, like many other schools in the area where the total eclipse can be viewed, have been putting together alternative plans for this day. Currently, Columbus Grove Schools is tentatively planning to NOT be in session on Monday, April 8. Staff will still report for work on this day and professional development activities. Many schools in the region are following suite, as the uncertainty of what to expect in terms of visitors in our region and the time of the eclipse (right at school dismissal) would create significant disruption to school operations for this day. I will send out an official communication later this month after discussing this matter further with the CG Board of Education. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter, please contact my office at 659-4301 or cg_verhoff@cg.noacsc.org.

Events and Recognition Schedule for Halftime

As a reminder, please see the tentative schedule of events below which will occur at halftime of our home boys' basketball games:

- January 5 (Crestview): Alumni Cheer Night/Cheerleaders' 3-point shooting fundraiser
- January 19 (Lincolnvew): XC Team State Championship/Luke Ellerbrock- All-Ohio Runner
- February 3 (Continental): Mini Cheer Night
- February 9 (Bluffton): Trenton Barraza- Football All-Ohio & Brock Hoffman- Baseball All-Ohio
- February 16 (Delphos Jefferson): Senior night

Winter Bulldog Sports Available Online

The CG Athletic Boosters, CG Athletic Department, and the Columbus Grove High School of Business present live stream and on demand options to watch CG events. Just like what was done with football games at Clymer Stadium this past fall, all basketball games in the high school gym will be available to watch on any

device including on a TV using Roku. This subscription-based service will be available to purchase before the event for a single purchase, monthly subscription, or annual subscription. An additional bonus is these online basketball games will have Z-Sports play-by-play accompany most games. While we do not want to have local residents and fans skip the live atmosphere of the game, this is a great alternative for those out of the area to support our students. The option of watching games later at your own convenience is another added benefit. Visit <http://fan.hudl.com/cgbulldogs> to watch highlights and subscribe to this service.

Upcoming Events:

- Thursday, January 4
 - 5:00 p.m.- Boys Freshman Basketball vs. Crestview
 - 5:00 p.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball @ Continental
 - 5:00 p.m.- Girls Junior High Basketball vs. Bath
 - 6:00 p.m.- Girls Varsity Basketball @ Crestview
- Friday, January 5- End of Second Quarter
 - 6:00 p.m.- Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Crestview
- Saturday, January 6
 - 9:00 a.m.- Junior High Wrestling @ Wapak Invite
 - 1:00 p.m.- Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Ottoville
 - 6:00 p.m.- Boys Varsity Basketball @ Fort Jennings
- Tuesday, January 9
 - 5:00 p.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball vs. Spencerville
 - 5:00 p.m.- Girls Junior High Basketball @ Spencerville
 - 6:00 p.m.- Girls Varsity Basketball @ Ayersville
- Thursday, January 11
 - 5:00 p.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball vs. Pandora-Gilboa
 - 5:00 p.m.- Girls Junior High Basketball @ Pandora-Gilboa
 - 6:00 p.m.- Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Leipsic
- Friday, January 12
 - 6:00 p.m.- Boys Varsity Basketball @ Leipsic
- Saturday, January 13
 - 9:00 a.m.- Junior High Wrestling @ Ayersville Invite
 - 10:00 a.m.- Varsity Wrestling @ Coldwater Invite
 - 10:30 a.m.- Boys Junior High Basketball @ Arlington
- Monday, January 15
 - No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
 - 7:30 p.m.- Board of Education Re-Organizational Meeting
 - 8:00 p.m.- January Board of Education Meeting