

GRASS ROOTS COMMITTEE BECOMES P.A.S.S.

The second community-wide meeting of the “grass roots” committee to promote the construction of new elementary facilities in our school district was held on Tuesday, March 29, 2005. The meeting was held at the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center. Another good turnout was present for the meeting, including several folks who were unable to attend the meeting in February. The entire group was updated on what had been shared with those in attendance at the first meeting. Some new, better quality slides were shared with the audience. This allowed them to have a better look at some of the new facilities that have been built recently by Steed Hammond Paul, Inc., our district’s architectural firm. Architect, Kevin Kreuz, gave an overview of the timeline involved in bringing our project from “infancy to adulthood.” This presentation was very informative and helpful to the audience, as it provided a snapshot of what is ahead of us.

In an important piece of business, the committee came up with a name and a slogan that will serve us well. Julie McClellan came up with the idea to name our committee, P.A.S.S. This acronym, when broken down, stands for People Advocating Superior Schools. This was very well received by the group. A motion was made and seconded to adopt PASS as the name for the grass roots committee, and the group voiced its approval through a vote.

There was some overall discussion regarding the purpose of the committee. This resulted in open dialogue among the audience. I also shared with the group that we have not yet learned the figures for the state/local match for our district’s project. In discussing this

with the folks at Resource International, we have reason to hope that these figures will be available by the time the full committee gets together again.

A central steering committee was established. Its members consist of Julie McClellan, Robin Gardner, Jerry Huntley, Myrl Ralston, Linda Stepp, Eric Toole, Jeff Swayne, Trish Fraley, and Robin Lucas. This committee will be meeting on a regular basis to promote the community input into the overall planning process. A finance team was also established. The members on this team are Eric Toole, Myrl Ralston, Eleen Smalley, Mike Hughes, Lynda Henley, Robin Gardner, Dan Beasley, and Tony Staggs. The purpose of this committee will be to secure the finances necessary to publicly promote the bond issue for this project. Myrl Ralston, PASS Treasurer, has visited the board of elections, established a bank account, and applied for tax-exempt status. Mrs. Ralston has taken all of these steps so that individuals who wish to make a tax deductible contribution to PASS can do so. These contributions (payable to _____) can either be mailed to Mrs. Ralston at 1020 E. South Street, West Union, Ohio 45693, or they can be mailed to AC/OVSD Treasurer, Eric Toole, and he will forward those to Mrs. Ralston and PASS. This committee will be having meetings of its own on a regular basis.

The next regular meeting of PASS will take place on Thursday, May 5, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will be held at North Adams Elementary. It is hoped that we will have those much-anticipated state/local match figures by that time. Also, two other committees will be ready to be formed. Those committees or teams will be

“communications/public relations” and “ voter/precinct.” Plan to attend and bring someone else with you on May 5th.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

It is that time of the year when we begin to think about the need for “host families” for foreign exchange students for the next school year. As a former building principal, I was fortunate in having several foreign exchange students live and attend school in the area. Some of these acquaintances/friendships lasted long after the students returned to their families/home countries. One has even involved follow-up visits over the years since that student attended school in Adams County. The foreign exchange students and I were both blessed in that we had some excellent host families.

The host family is a key piece in the exchange student enjoying a happy and successful experience while being thousands of miles away from their parents. Our students adapt quickly to these unfamiliar faces, and often “adopt” them and develop long lasting friendships. Our students and teachers learn from the exchange students, and the exchange students learn from our cultures, our studies, and us.

Being a host family for a foreign exchange student is not for every household. If you think that your family might be interested in hosting or sponsoring a foreign exchange student for the 2005-2006 school year, and you would like more information about this,

then I urge you to contact Fredricka Jenkins at 549-1685. Freddie is an area representative for the International Student Exchange.

ARTS FESTIVAL RECAP

In case you missed it, the Annual All-County Arts Festival was held on Thursday, March 31, 2005 at West Union High School. As usual, this event was very well staged, from the art show to the choral readings to the musical performances. I want to compliment all of the teachers involved in making the event an evening that is not only successful, but also enjoyable. It's hard work by the teachers and students that makes the festival the success that it is. I was reminded of this hard work that takes place in the home schools well in advance of the actual event by one of my former high school music teachers. I enjoyed this activity when I was a high school student thirty-five years ago, and I still enjoy it today.

Many thanks to the Adams County Arts Council. Each year, this group provides delicious refreshments for those in attendance. It definitely adds a nice touch and is much appreciated. Each year, the Tim Lewis Fine Arts Scholarship is awarded to a deserving senior who meets the requirements for consideration of this award. Mrs. Judy Lewis, Tim's mother, annually presents this scholarship. This year's worthy recipient was Thomas Tulley of West Union High School. Congratulations to Thomas, who is very talented and well deserving of this scholarship. Many thanks to Mrs. Judy Lewis for making this scholarship possible once again this year.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent