

CHECKING THE FORECAST

At the October regular meeting of the Board of Education for the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District, Treasurer Tina Hageman presented and reviewed with those in attendance the latest figures associated with our Five-Year Forecast. The Five-Year Forecast is a tool for board members and school district officials to use to help stay on top of the financial health of the school district. This document, mandated by law, is presented and revised twice annually.

The presentation of the Five-Year Forecast usually takes place without much interest or fanfare unless the forecast is one of total doom and gloom. It has been at least five years since a Five-Year Forecast created great concern for employees, board members, and our taxpayers, in general. Since that time, we have been able to stabilize the budget, while providing employees with annual raises and the supplies that they need to do their jobs to the best extent possible. The Five-Year Forecast is a tricky and misleading animal. School districts are required by law to build a Five-Year Forecast, even though we can only predict with reasonable accuracy the fiscal years within the current biennium budget. There are so many assumptions that have to be used and built into the Five-Year Forecast, including the cost of supplies, fuel for buses, bus purchases, maintenance, raises, increases in insurance premiums, and enrollment fluctuations from one year to the next just to name a few.

If you take a look at our Five-Year Forecast, we would appear to be in a positive cash flow situation until FY2011. However, fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011 could all

change depending upon what the next biennium budget looks like. Under the current budget, the AC/OVSD did receive some increases in state-level funding for both years. Among other things, this can be seen through the amount of money per pupil that we receive from the state. Similar basic aid per student increases are built into the Five-Year Forecast for the entire forecast period even though school districts have no way of actually predicting the increase, or to what level.

Keep in mind that this budget is very dependent upon state funding, and whatever formulas may be built into future biennium budgets. For these reasons, the years of the Five-Year Forecast beyond the current biennium can be very troublesome. To me, projections for these years are truly “guesstimates,” based upon what we think/hope will happen. School district treasurers across the state have a tough time getting their arms around this beast known as the Five-Year Forecast. Many thanks to Treasurer Tina Hageman and her staff for their efforts to keep us as accurately informed on our finances as possible. If you have any questions concerning the current Five-Year Forecast, please feel free to contact us at 544-5586.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As we approach the end of 2007, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our taxpayers for their continued support of the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District. We wouldn't be where we are as a district without your involvement and support. There is no question that 2008 will be a huge year for the AC/OVSD in terms of the new building and renovation project. However, this is just one part of what we are here to do.

Our goal is to become an “Excellent” school district in the eyes of the Ohio Department of Education and our local taxpayers.

The last day of school before the Holiday Break will be Thursday, December 20th. We will be dismissing early on this day as follows: CTC at 12:55 p.m., high schools at 1:15 p.m., elementary schools at 1:25 p.m.

Once again, I believe that if we all work together toward this common goal of becoming an “Excellent” school district, we can and will ultimately succeed. Happy Holidays to all, along with best wishes for 2008!

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent