

WELCOME 2008!

A new year is once again upon us. Along with the New Year will inevitably come changes. This would include our school board. We bid a very fond goodbye to long-time Board Member Jeff Ryan at our December 17th meeting. Mr. Ryan faithfully served this school district well for the past eight years. On January 3, 2008, Mrs. Charalena (Charlie) Bess became the newest member of the Board of Education for the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District. This is actually Mrs. Bess' second opportunity to be serving as a school board member as she recently filled an unexpired term on the board. Like Mr. Ryan and many others who have served before her, Mrs. Bess will be a faithful servant of the public as a school board member.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

January is School Board Recognition Month. As everyday citizens who serve children and their communities, school board members face many tough and demanding challenges. Their job is often a complicated one, as they must govern the school district within the scope of state and federal regulations. In addition to the many decisions that they must make, school board members are bombarded by information that they must absorb and process before making those decisions. School board members serve because they care about the students, the staff, and the community as a whole.

Too often, we forget about the personal sacrifices that they make in order to serve us. Too often, we are quick to criticize or condemn school board members without really knowing all of the details that went into making a decision. I am reminded of a couple of

expressions that go hand-in-hand with being a school board member, or a public servant, in general: a) nothing is as easy as it looks; and b) if it was really easy, everyone would do it.

Though January is School Board Recognition Month, I would encourage you to thank your Board of Education Members for their caring, dedication, and service at any time during the year. Sometimes, just a simple but heartfelt “thank you” means more than anything to them.

EQUIPMENT IS ARRIVING

Some of you may have noticed by now that there have been pieces of heavy equipment delivered to the school district. Soon, you should be hearing the sounds from that equipment as the early site work for the new elementary buildings gets into full swing. Along with this will come the drilling for the geothermal well fields. The real excitement and anticipation will be growing by leaps and bounds as this work progresses. Hold on because 2008 will finally usher in visible progress on our project. We will keep you posted as to the progress of the building project.

As always, if you have any questions about this article, feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

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Superintendent