

MOVING ON TO THE NEXT CHAPTER

Almost two months ago, I attended and participated in all three of our graduation ceremonies for the eighth and final year during my tenure as Superintendent of Schools. Much like those graduates who have completed another major chapter in their lives and are moving to the next, the same can be said for me. The 2009-2010 school year is long ago over, and we now have passed the July 4th weekend, which is typically thought of as the mid-point of the summer break. This is my last article for the school year, and my last article as your Superintendent.

I actually thought as I started this article that it would be a really easy article to write. However, the more that I thought about it, the more of a challenge it became. It isn't always easy to say or write what is in your heart in such a way that its interpretation will be what you had intended in the first place.

I suppose that before I go any further, I should get this off of my heart. A few weeks ago, our county lost three educators within a week's time—Janie Eshom, Rusty Poole, and Joey Bennington. All were the apparent victims of heart attacks or some heart-related issue. All three had a great enthusiasm for life. They loved education and working with children. They loved doing things for children, and making children happy. They were all called to their eternal homes too soon. Many lives were made richer thanks to these three individuals, and we are thankful for their efforts, as well as for just simply knowing them.

I believe that the best starting point in the rest of my comments would be to say THANK YOU! Thank you to the various Boards of Education that I have attempted to serve these past eight years, as well as to the public that has supported me. Thank you to the employees for all of their assistance and support, especially our other administrators. As the Superintendent for the district, I often receive credit for our accomplishments. While I am flattered by these comments, praise and credit for our accomplishments must be shared by all—board members, parents and taxpayers, employees, and students. Part of the superintendent's job is to have vision. In accepting this promotion eight years ago, I had plenty of visions.

Often, visions take time to become realities. And, so it was with the tasks of selecting reading materials, raising our status to that of an “Excellent” school district, and building new state-of-the-art elementary facilities for our youngest learners. These were a few of my visions, but all were made possible by the fact that so many others grabbed a hold of the torch I was carrying and helped carry that torch until the vision was a reality. Thanks to the efforts of many, all of our students have comfortable, modern facilities in which to learn. Our communities can certainly be proud of their school facilities. I suppose that when it comes to the whole flow of the buildings, drives, and athletic fields, my favorite of the three locations would probably be Peebles. Regardless, all of us are charged with the responsibility and pride to see to it that these modern facilities are maintained and cared for properly to ensure longevity.

As my days become more and more numbered, I can assure you that my complete confidence for your future lies with this Board of Education, your support, and your new Superintendent, Mr. Rodney Wallace. Mr. Wallace brings a wealth of experience into this career opportunity. He has been successful at both the elementary and the secondary levels. He understands curriculum and assessment. He will put all of this knowledge and more to work in leading the AC/OVSD forward.

Like most superintendents and school districts, the most immediate challenges will be related to school finance. Maintaining current programs and class sizes while battling the cash flow problems will be an ongoing struggle. Getting a new tax levy approved (which is unbelievably important in relationship to my previous statement) will be very important. Please keep in mind that it has been over fifteen years since this school district has asked its citizens for more operating money. That is a long time, and I hope that the voters will keep this in mind. I feel that a successful attempt to create a Joint Vocational School District in Adams County will be another major financial piece to this puzzle. This will probably go before the State Board of Education in the fall. One thing is for certain. There is never a shortage of goals to achieve or barriers to overcome when you are a superintendent or a school board member. All the more reason why all of you need to continue to work together for the betterment of education for all students in the AC/OVSD.

This brings me to my final paragraph. This job was tough, but I knew that it would be when I accepted the position. So, in that respect, there were no major surprises. Every

job is tough if you give it your all. I have no regrets about my decision to accept the job, only sincere thanks and praise for all of the support and encouragement that I have received during my tenure. What will I miss? I'll miss the opportunities that I have had to work with and interact with students. I'll miss working with the employees and parents. I'll miss the buses and the school food. That's right, I happen to think that our school food is pretty good. As an educator, I will miss the daily opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of students, as well as for them to make a positive difference in my life.

Indeed, it was my honor and privilege to represent and serve this school district, and I wish for only good things for the AC/OVSD, the board members, and Mr. Wallace in moving forward. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent