

P.A.S.S. UPDATE

Can you believe how quickly the month of June is scooting right on by? The months do roll by quickly. People Advocating Superior Schools (PASS) is in the midst of looking at prospective sites for new elementary schools in the district. A committee was scheduled to view possible building sites in the North Adams area on Friday afternoon, June 17th. On Monday, June 20th, that same committee was to take a look at the various possibilities upon which to build the new elementary building for West Union. Currently, the only prospective building site for Peebles Elementary is the acreage that the district currently owns at the Peebles High School site. There is enough acreage there to construct the new elementary facility. There is also enough acreage at the West Union High School/CTC campus to build the new elementary for West Union. However, there isn't enough acreage at the present North Adams High School site to build the elementary building for North Adams. PASS will look at all of the building options carefully, along with the scrutinizing eyes of the architects. The selected site in each attendance area must meet the specific requirements for constructing a new facility.

In my previous article, I used the "what if" scenario of a 90/10 split for our project. I carried that thought out to the point of a hypothetical building project that would total fifty million dollars. Using the 90/10 split (90% from the state, 10% from local funds), this would mean that the state would come up with approximately forty-five million for the project, and our local share would be roughly five million. Please keep in mind that this is a hypothetical example. I do not yet know the exact state/local split for our project. Nor, do I know the actual cost for our master plan. Also, please remember that

any land purchases are not included in the local match. Neither are any extra amenities included in an Ohio School Facilities Commission project that are not covered by the OSFC building guidelines. Therefore, under the above-mentioned hypothetical situation, our local portion of the project could be higher than the actual five percent figure depending upon how nice you want your finished product to be. The figure that I presented earlier in this article represents a minimum amount for the local share. At any rate, it will still be a great deal for our taxpayers and our students.

PASS will meet on Thursday evening, June 23rd at Peebles Elementary. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. As always, anyone is welcome to attend. Hopefully, I will have more answers from the OSFC regarding our project by that date. There will be a great deal of work to do over the remainder of the summer and early fall as we prepare for a possible ballot issue for the project at the November election. If all of the pieces do not fall into place for a November 2005 ballot issue, they will certainly be available for a May primary ballot issue in 2006. I can and will assure you that when I know more information, it will be shared with you in a timely manner. As you know, it costs money to run a levy campaign. The school district, by law, cannot expend general fund monies to promote any kind of ballot issue. Therefore, anyone wishing to contribute financially to the campaign may do so by sending your donation to Myrl Ralston, Treasurer of PASS. Her address is 1020 East South Street, West Union, Ohio 45693. Your contributions are most appreciated and are tax deductible.

MORE TESTS DATA

As we continue to march through the month of June, more and more raw test data for the 2004-2005 school year continues to come in to the district. The adoption of “cut scores” by the State Board of Education at its June meeting has helped to clarify more of this data. The final results will be known later this summer. At that time, I will provide the public with a full report regarding our school district. I am both encouraged and discouraged by what I have seen thus far. However, it is considered to be “raw data,” so I will withhold any further comments until I have more information. Stay tuned; more information will be forthcoming in August.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

This will be my final article for the month of June. Unless some major developments occur, this will also be my final article until August. Best wishes to our Class of 2005 Retirees, and to all of you for a great summer ahead. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone or E-mail. Continue to stay informed by visiting our district website at www.ohiovalley.k12.oh.us.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent