

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Recently, the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District held groundbreaking ceremonies at all three building sites for the new elementary schools. The board members and I were so pleased with the attendance and participation at each of these ceremonies, especially considering the August heat and the time of the day that the ceremonies were held.

It was good to see so many young students at the groundbreaking ceremonies. Some were there as members of various scout groups. Some were there to offer musical performances during the program. We also had some older students on hand to present musical selections for the audiences. I want to again thank all of those students and their leaders for their support and participation in this event. I would imagine that having the opportunity to turn a shovel full of dirt at these ceremonies is something that will be remembered by those youngsters for a lifetime.

The next big visible hurdle to cross will be the early site work and digging of the geothermal well fields at each building site. This will get underway sometime this fall and will continue throughout the winter months as long as the weather permits. If the winter weather should follow the prediction of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, then site work should see few interruptions. Of course, that particular sword has a double edge. We want good weather to do the site work and dig the well fields. On the other hand, we need water in the ground in the worst way in our area. One thing is for certain---man will

have no control over the weather, as we have already seen with the August and early September heat wave.

I know that staff and residents of our school communities are anxious to see what progress has been made on building designs/blueprints since the last round of community meetings last school year. We have scheduled a new round of meetings in each of our attendance areas, beginning with North Adams Elementary Staff on Tuesday, September 25th at 3:25 p.m. A community meeting for the North Adams area will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the present North Adams Elementary facility. Our next set of meetings will be held in the Peebles attendance area on Thursday, September 27th. The meeting with interested staff will begin at 3:25 p.m., following by a community meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the present Peebles Elementary facility. This series of meetings will wrap up on Tuesday, October 2nd with staff and community meetings in the West Union area. The meeting for interested staff will be held at 3:25 p.m., followed by a meeting for the community at 7:00 p.m., both to be held at the present West Union Elementary facility.

Your attendance and participation at these meetings is an important part of the building process. It gives you the opportunity to see what has been done with the ideas and suggestions presented to date, while realizing that we will undoubtedly run out of money before we run out of ideas or suggestions. This brings about the need to prioritize, which is what the CORE Team, through its monthly meetings, and the Board have attempted to do since our last round of staff and community meetings. The Board has already established one major priority for this project when they made a crucial decision in favor of installing geothermal heating and cooling systems in each new elementary school.

This round of staff and community meetings is important as we are nearing the completion and submission of the developmental design phase. The Board of Education Members and I hope that you will be able to attend one of the three upcoming community meetings.

As always, if you have a question about this article, please call me at 544-5586. Thank you.

Charles P. Kimble

Superintendent