

SMOOTH TRANSITION

We have now been in our new elementary buildings for the better part of a month, excluding snow days. I would have to say that the transition from the old to the new has gone smoother than what we might have imagined. There were probably a couple of things that we overlooked in preparing for January 4th, and maintenance people and contractors are working around the clock to iron out the typical kinks that occur with the HVAC and mechanical systems. Nevertheless, the transition has gone very smoothly. The planning that was put into place for January 4th has certainly paid off. The children and staff have adjusted well to their new buildings and revised routines. Even the traffic concerns seem to have been less than expected.

Many thanks to all who have played any part in this smooth transition. This includes our parents who have had to adjust to some new procedures. Thank you for your patience and understanding when things haven't gone as smoothly at take-up and dismissal times as you would like. We will keep checking and reviewing procedures on our end in order to make this process go as smoothly as possible, but there is really only so much that we can do. Again, I would encourage parents to take advantage of our newly-created in-town bus stops as much as possible. This will help greatly with the traffic concerns and congestion. There is, however, one thing that I can guarantee everyone. Regardless of what dismissal plan is utilized, some will be happier about it than others because it is impossible to come up with a plan like this that pleases everyone. What works great for one person may not work as well for others. So, we try to do what is the fairest thing for all involved who want or need to transport their children. That is truly about the best way that we can approach this issue.

REMINDER...AUCTION DATES

For those of you who read this article, you might be interested in this reminder. Auction dates at all three of our old elementary buildings will be occurring during the month of February,

beginning with West Union Elementary on Saturday, February 6th. The next auction will be at the old North Adams Elementary building on Saturday, February 20th. The final auction will take place on Saturday, February 27th at the old Peebles Elementary building. Please keep in mind that these auctions are for loose furnishings, and not for real estate. Some of our modular buildings will also be auctioned on these dates. You can check out a more detailed description of the items to be sold by reviewing the auction notice in the newspaper.

Since I am frequently asked about demolition, I have some new information on this that I am going to share with you. According to the most recent timeline that we have, demolition of the old elementary structures could get underway as soon as mid to late May. You can check on all of these tentative dates by going to our District Website at www.ovsd.us and click-on the link “New Building Project Update – Old Building Auction Update.” At this time, the old buildings are undergoing a chemical audit of sorts to determine if there are any hazardous materials in the schools, such as asbestos, prior to the start of demolition. Demolition will probably take up to two months to complete. When finished, the properties will be seeded and strawed in preparation for auction.

VOCATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES MEET

Members of all twelve of our Vocational Advisory Committees met recently at the Ohio Valley Career and Technical Center. CTC Principal Tad Mitchell welcomed those in attendance, after which a light meal was made available. I was able to visit with eight of the twelve advisory groups with Mr. Mitchell. I am always struck by the openness and willingness of our business and community persons to serve on these committees. Every group that we visited with had 4-5 members present in addition to the instructor(s). On behalf of Mr. Mitchell, I would like to thank all of our advisory committee members who were able to be present for these meetings last month. These committees are a vital link between the CTC and the community at large.

In one group that we visited, the possibility of a new Adult Education Class was discussed. In another group, we discussed funding for vocational education in Ohio. In yet another group, we learned how some of our new furniture isn't performing as well as expected. Still, in another group, college credit for a high school course was discussed. These meetings do serve a vital purpose. Mental notes on ideas are taken even when you might not think that they were. So, again, thanks are offered to all committee members who were able to spend their evening with us on January 19th.

If you have any questions about this article, please contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

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Superintendent