

District Goals

- Increase student achievement
- Close the socio-economic, ethnic, and disability gaps in student achievement.
- Build hope, trust and respect within our community.

THE FREMONT FOCUS

Volume I * Issue 3

February 2007

From the desk of Dr. Traci McCaudy, Superintendent

In Issue 1 of *The Fremont Focus*, I reviewed the district's need for an emergency levy that would generate much-needed operating revenue for Fremont City Schools. I wrote at the time that to maintain current levels of operation, to have the money necessary to purchase textbooks and other supplementary materials, to develop curriculum guides and assessment tools, to provide student intervention programs, to fund transportation and extracurricular activities, and to maintain adequate levels of professional staff, passage of the levy was critical.

On November 7, the levy proposal was defeated. For the district, failure of the levy means that Fremont City Schools faces a \$3.2 million shortfall at the close of this fiscal year and faces an increasingly dire financial situation each year thereafter.

Since the district will realize no new revenue, it is faced with the only other option it has to meet the requirements of State of Ohio law regarding school finance – to cut enough costs to offset the lack of revenue it is receiving to operate. I will summarize for you the cost-saving measures that we are implementing or considering at this time.

1. We have reduced transportation costs by adjusting the service area for busing students. As a result, we have reduced employees and the accompanying costs of employing those individuals.

2. We have implemented a comprehensive pay-to-participate policy that will offset the costs of athletic and non-athletic extracurricular activities.

3. We are undertaking a careful analysis of the operational costs of each school in the district, including the portables. The purpose of the analysis will be to determine cost-saving measures that can be taken now and in the future.

4. We are reviewing all of our annual contracts with service providers. We will complete a cost/benefit analysis for all services and we will compare the cost of services with other providers to determine cost savings measures that the district can take immediately and in the future.

5. We are reviewing student enrollment and student attendance boundaries to determine both staffing needs and the possibility of redistricting to achieve better utilization of schools and/or the closing of schools.

6. We will complete a comprehensive analysis of our current staffing needs and numbers to determine potential savings generated by reallocating or reducing staff.

7. We will complete a comprehensive review of course offerings and other programs provided for students and determine if any non-essential courses and/or programs can be

eliminated in order to save money.

8. We will initiate contacts immediately with state legislators so that our voices are heard regarding our questions and concerns about current methods for funding Ohio schools.

As Superintendent of Fremont City Schools, I am obligated to provide the Fremont Board of Education with recommendations for cost-savings measures that will allow us to comply with state law. I have met and I will continue to meet that obligation. The Fremont Board of Education has the same obligation to the State of Ohio. It, too, will meet its obligation.

No Superintendent and no Board of Education takes comfort in reducing services or opportunities for children. Neither takes comfort in reducing employee numbers. Both understand that every move a school district makes in some way affects children.

However, the current funding system in the State of Ohio requires school districts to go to the voters on a regular basis to ask for the revenue necessary to meet the increasing fixed costs of operating a quality educational program for children. In addition to fixed costs, school districts in Ohio must fund state programs (that are mandated but not funded by the state), absorb loss of tax revenue from businesses, and absorb State of Ohio reductions in basic aid to schools – last year a reduction of \$57 a year per student. Such a funding

system is not our choice. It is, however, the system within which we must work.

It is disheartening for me to have to recommend employee reductions, curtailed busing services, and the requirement that students pay to participate in sports or clubs. You will not find such items in my stated goals for Fremont City Schools. Still, I will work diligently with the Board of Education to provide the best educational program that we can with the funds that we have available to us. We never stop thinking about kids.

If you share our desire for quality schools, I encourage you to join me in an effort I am making to increase communication and to continue to build faith and trust within the community. Below, I have listed a number of committees that are being formed to address the issues currently facing Fremont City Schools. These committees are open to any citizen in Fremont who has an interest in engaging in problem-identifying and problem-solving activities.

If you are interested in joining one of the committees, please communicate that fact to me in writing. Please be certain to include your name, address, and phone number so that I may contact you promptly. The committees are:

Operations
Communications/Public Relations
Curriculum Quality Control Council
Finance/Audit
Policy

Business is Good at FMS!

Producing Entrepreneurs

Students in Mr. Gallagher's freshmen intro to business classes recently completed small business projects in which students created their own small businesses. Students were responsible for developing and presenting a business plan, logo, slogan, and business card. Students also had to draw or build what their businesses would look like.

Some examples were an electronics store, dance studio, farm

implement, and donut shop. The unit will culminate when local small business owner Marc Boukissen will guest speak on what it's like to be sole proprietor.

"My small business project really showed me what small business owners have to go through in order to keep their businesses up and running. This project really got me interested in business and showed me the skills I can use in the future," commented Sam Lagrou.



Jarrett Eakin, freshman, proudly displays his small business project.

Lutz



In November, Lutz Student Council members collected food items for the Sandusky County Food Pantry. They collected over 1,200 items. Mrs. Miller's class collected the most items and earned a pizza party for themselves. This is only one of Student Council's

community service activities. We are currently collecting paper items for the Liberty Center. These activities help instill a sense of civic pride in our students. Because the generosity of our students many local citizens will be helped through this holiday season.

Learning and Liberty Foundation News

The Learning and Liberty Foundation of the Fremont City Schools was created to enhance the educational opportunities for students of the Fremont City Schools. The Foundation accomplishes its goals by providing annual scholarships to graduating seniors and grants to teachers for classroom education opportunities. The Foundation also hosts the annual Gold Medal Banquet that honors students with 4.0 grade points.

During the 2006-2007 school year, the Foundation has approved three grant requests to date. Deb Acker of Washington Schools received a grant to purchase software to supplement the math learning experience for her students. Steve Oberst of Ross High School received a grant to fund a student project to construct sling psychrometers to measure temperature, humidity and dew points. Angela Smith of the Middle School received a grant to purchase historic fiction novels for a cross curricular reading project.

The Foundation, which is a 501c (3) organization, is funded by payroll deductions and donations. Any and all donations are welcome and may be sent to The Learning and Liberty Foundation, c/o The Fremont City Schools, 1220 Cedar St., Fremont, OH 43420.

Hayes Celebrates Reading!

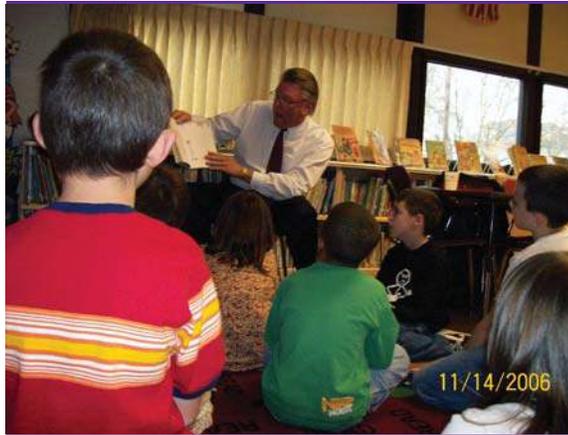
Students at Hayes Elementary School celebrated Children's Book Week, Nov. 13-17, by taking part in many exciting activities throughout the week. Eighteen "Celebrity Readers," from all walks of life around and about Fremont were on hand to read books to students. The Hayes Staff would like to thank: Fremont Schools' representatives, Jane Fleming, Jim Marquis, Dwayne Arnold, Laurie Selvey, Gina Reed, Melissa Detwiler, Art Bucci, Dr. Traci McCaudy, Dr. Kim Theller, Dallas Leake, Jim Fails and Bill Brown; city and county officials, Mayor Overmeyer, Jim Moyer (co. engineer), Jim Weaver (city councilman), Marvin Wagner (Fremont Fire Dept); Kirk Hess of Martial Arts, and Donna Kelly, retired teacher.

On Wednesday previous week. Books were collected, sorted and categorized by Lisa Stohl, after school over 125 students and parents

brought in. Then on Wed. they used their tickets to "purchase/trade" for another book of their choice. Snacks were available, and door prizes were awarded!

Students and teachers dressed as their favorite book character and paraded around the school in front of other student and parent onlookers during Thursday's Character Parade. Characters, such as "Clifford", "Harry Potter", "Little Red-Riding-Hood", "Mother Goose", and "Laura Ingalls" carried the books they were representing. Rosemary White, the school cook took part and dressed as "Pollyanna" from the Princess and the Pizza.

The culmination of a fun week was the Readers' Theater presentation by Birchard Library personnel. Students enjoyed the entire week of reading related activities.



Mayor Terry Overmeyer reads to students at Hayes School.

participated in a Book Swap. Students had brought in over 1000 old, but gently used books during the school librarian, and Daun Diedrich, Title I teacher. Students were given credit tickets for each book



The stars are bright at Atkinson! Shine on!

College Questions?

The College Access Information Hotline helps Ohioans find out about college preparation, financial aid, and other information about colleges and universities throughout the state. The hotline, run by the Ohio Board of Regents, is available to all Ohio residents from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The number is (877) 428-8246.

You can view this document and the attachments at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> by typing keyword: Current e-mails to Superintendents in the Search box.

Washington Hosts Veterans' Day Celebration

On November 9, 2006, Washington Elementary celebrated Veterans' Day with a breakfast.

Approximately 60 people attended the event. Students brought veterans to school to honor them for their service. Several students read poems to the veterans, and presented class poems written about "Why You Are My Hero".

Each student introduced their veteran and

what service area they served.

The 2nd and 3rd grade students wrote letters to servicemen in Iraq and are collecting items to send for Christmas. One third grader's father is currently stationed in Iraq at this time.

Washington Elementary would like to thank all of those who served for our country.

A message from Washington Elementary: God Bless and keep you.



Could you use \$25,000 for college? The **Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship Program** awards up to \$25,000 scholarships and 300 \$2500 scholarships to juniors every year. Qualifications: 2.75 GPA, demonstrate leadership abilities, active in the community and have experienced and overcome a significant obstacle in your life. See Mrs. Frizzell-Joerg at Fremont Ross High School for an application. Deadline is January 31, 2007.

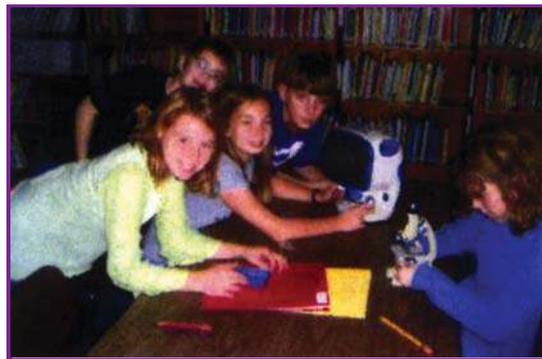
Science is electric!

Mr. McGinnis's students at Washington Elementary recently discovered some cool science. They wrote:

We explored many interesting topics in the area of science. Students learned to use a variety of different kinds of microscopes. We began with a low-powered handheld scope. Then they used a television style group microscope that projects images on a screen for everyone to view at the same time. Lastly we ended with your typical style microscopes that are in fact the most powerful. With the high-powered lenses, it is possible to observe objects as small as a single cell.

Students learned how to use the adjusting knobs to focus clearly and

see a variety of prepared slides. We searched around the room for anything and everything that we could observe under our scopes.



A few groups even got to go outside and bring little pieces of nature back inside to study more closely.

As fun as microscopes were, many students favorite activity

was learning about electricity. We began with some basic terminology, and constructed a simple circuit. We then began adding

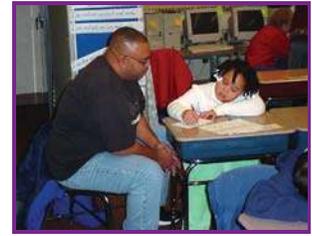
off. Parallel gives electricity two paths to travel and can bypass a trouble spot. Students were also given time to experiment with several light bulbs and batteries to see how the power supply and the energy needs of multiple bulbs affected the dimness or brightness of individual bulbs.

Lastly, we ended our science unit learning about the constellations in the night sky. Each student constructed a star finder to assist them in locating stars or star groups. It tells them which direction to look, what time of year to find it, and the basic shaped they are looking for.

switches and extra light bulbs. We learned the difference between series and parallel wiring. Series is what most of your cheap Christmas lights use where if one burns out the rest go



Atkinson Hosts “Activity” Day



Atkinson School recently held parent “Activity” days at each grade level. Attendance of parents or other special adult guests at these events was very high. In Kindergarten and First grade, parents came and worked with their child to make practice games and activities to work on basic skills at home. Second grade parents learned about two *Everyday Math* skills and found out how to practice these at home. Third grade parents were informed of the State Reading and Math Achievement tests and worked with their child on sample test question items. Fourth grade parents were educated on two reading strategies that are important for reading success – compare/contrast and summarization. Intermediate level parents also learned some math strategies and information to help their child prepare for the end of the year state Achievement Tests for 5th and 6th grade. We appreciate the support of all of our families!



Stamm welcomes Ross student-athletes



Stamm Elementary celebrated Rally Day with Fremont Ross student athletes. The Stamm students enjoyed being introduced to the student athletes and hearing from Coach Wolf, Coach Gedeon, Mrs. Frizzell-Joerg, and Mr. Bucci. We learned that it is important to stay on task now and be a learner everyday so that we can be prepared to be a strong Little Giant student athlete later in life! Our words of the month were highlighted by Mr. Bucci as an important Life Skill that we continue to use, even after we leave Stamm. The cheerleaders helped us show our spirit and got us up and moving in the gym. It was a fun day at Stamm Elementary!

Elfis and The Sleigh Riders



The fourth graders at Lutz Elementary School performed a musical called *Elfis and The Sleigh Riders*. In the play, Elfis and the Sleigh Riders found out that friends might disagree with one another but in the end their friendship was more important. The following students played these parts Elijah Jaso was Elfis, Joesph Meyer was Santa, Faye Sloma was Mrs. Claus, Megahn Peicott was Aretha, Hannah Farnung was Mariah, Bailey Kern was Celine, Allen Mayle was Stanley, Nathaniel Rellinger was Jerry Lee, and Chase Abel was Bix. The rest of the fourth graders were elves, reindeer or sang in the choir. Fellow students and family members enjoyed the play.



Fremont City Schools Calendar

January 29th – Ross – Financial Aid Night
 January 30th – Wrestling – P.C./Norwalk (H)
 Black History Month
 Feb. 1- Teacher-In service day – No school (Ross and FMS)
 Feb. 3 - Winter King Dance
 Feb. 10 - ACT Test
 Feb. 13-Post-Secondary Options meeting at Ross
 Feb. 16 - Black History Month Food Day (Ross); Mid-Terms Distributed
 Feb. 19- Presidents' Day – No School
 Feb. 27 – Orchestra Concert
 Mar. 5-Band Concert/Swim Boosters Meeting
 Mar. 10-SAT Test
 Mar. 12-16 OGT Tests
 Mar. 13 Swimming/Wrestling Awards Night
 Mar. 15-18 NHS Senior Trip
 Mar. 19-23 OGT make-up
 Mar. 20-Basketball and Cheerleading Awards
 Mar. 22 Spring Sports Pictures
 Mar. 23 End of 3rd nine weeks
 Mar. 29-Grade cards distributed
 Mar. 31 Storybook Festival 10-1

Kindergarten Registration

Fremont City Schools will be holding kindergarten registration during the month of March. If a child will be five (5) years of age on or before September 30, 2007, he/she is eligible to start kindergarten during the 2007-2008 school year. Registration is held at your attendance area building with the exception of Otis Elementary. Otis will hold screening at the Fremont Alliance Church, 936 N. Brush St. Each elementary has designated days for registration. Parents must register their child with the school of their attendance area. (For example, if you live in the Atkinson attendance area, you must register on one of Atkinson's days) Both parent and child attend the screening which takes approximately one and one-half (1 ½ hours).

For school district attendance area or for other information regarding Kindergarten Registration, contact the Fremont City Schools Administration Office at 419-332-6454.

The schedule is as follows:

School	Dates	Phone Number
Atkinson	March 5 & 6	419-332-5361
Croghan	March 7 & 8	419-332-1511
Hayes	March 13 & 14	419-332-6371
Lutz	March 13 & 14	419-332-0091
Otis	March 19 & 20	419-332-8964
Stamm	March 20, 21, & 22	419-332-5538
Washington	March 12	419-665-2327

Please call the elementary school of attendance to make appointment. Even though Otis will hold screening at the church, please call the school to make the appointment. Screening times are 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m. At the time of registration, parents must bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, immunization record, proof of residency, and any custody papers, if applicable. **All kindergarten children are required to have the varicella (chicken pox) immunization prior to entering school in the fall.** Please call Dr. Kimberly Theller, Director of Curriculum/State & Federal Projects at 419-334-5437 if you have any questions.

Focus Show 2006

Congratulations to Fremont Ross Art students who have had artwork selected for the FOCUS 2006 Art Exhibition. 287 pieces were chosen from over 1,500



school students. Jurors selected pieces from the 34 that were submitted by Fremont Ross alumni (2006 graduates): Allison Adams, "Petals of a Fallen Rose"; Chris

Leeper, "Mark of a Demon" Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan high

school students. Jurors selected pieces from the 34 that were submitted by Fremont Ross alumni (2006 graduates): Allison Adams, "Petals of a Fallen Rose"; Chris Leeper, "Mark of a Demon" and Logan Szymanowski, "He had Similar Features" (pictured at left).



Fremont Board of Education
Front row: Vice President Jim Fails and President Tim Ellenberger
Back row members: Dallas Leake, Linda Hershey, Marlene Ellis

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fremont Board of Education regular Board meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the W. David Carr Lecture Lab at 1220 Cedar Street. Check website for changes (www.fremontschools.net).