

## Oakwood schools seeks to fill school board vacancy

Effective Oct 1, 2009, there is a vacancy on the Oakwood City Schools Board of Education created by the resignation of board member Debra Hershey whose family is relocating to Michigan. Per Ohio law, the current board must fill this vacancy by appointment within thirty days - in this case by Oct. 31. The law also requires that School Board Members be legal residents of Oakwood and registered voters. Persons interested in being considered for appointment should submit a letter of interest and their credentials to the Board Office, Attention: Dr. Paul Vanderburgh, Board President, 20 Rubicon Road, no later than Monday, Oct. 12 at 4 p.m.

The board is looking for candidates who have an interest in public service. Preference will be given to candidates who have previous experience serving on governing boards; are knowledgeable about the Oakwood School District; have

the potential for long term service on the Board; and who will represent our community well in making decisions in the best interest of the students, the school district and its stakeholders.

It is anticipated that the Board of Education will hold interviews the week of Oct. 19. The person appointed to fill Mrs. Hershey's seat will serve until Dec. 31, 2011, approximately 2.2 years.

Potential candidates are invited to call Dr. Paul Vanderburgh, Board President, at 299-8482 with questions about the appointment process. He and other Board members, Elizabeth Reger (298-6795), Beth Merritt (298-5938), and Sam Davis (299-0592) are available for questions about their experiences with respect to serving on the Board. Superintendent Dr. Mary Jo Scalzo and Treasurer Kevin Philo are also available to talk with interested community members at 297-5332.

## Fathers' involvement in education a big plus

Jim Uphoff  
Ed. D.



A recent editorial in the *Concord (NH) Monitor* addressed the issue of "Getting dads more involved in education." In just a matter of weeks from now\* our Oakwood schools will be hosting parent-teacher conferences. In the past far too many of these essential team-building activities on behalf of the success of children have been 'mothers-only' attending.

I am glad to have the mothers attending, for sure, but when fathers are a visible and active partner in the full child rearing and education

processes, there are major positive results. The US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently stressed that the schools need to find ways to enable fathers to feel more welcome and be more involved. But he also stressed the fathers need to be more aggressive about helping their children see them modeling "learning is vital" behaviors.

One example given at the forum where Duncan spoke was for the schools to make more use of evening hours where fathers can come with their children to the schools for special events and activities. [See below for Oakwood's P-T Conference Schedules] Some PTOs have been very helpful in this, but more is needed.

When children see fathers involved in and caring about the education of their chil-

dren, a value message that lasts a lifetime is being sent. One friend of mine stressed that this message is also very important for the daughters as well as for the sons since the future wives may have an expanded male image to seek for their own life-partner.

\*Our Oakwood Junior and Senior High P-T Conferences (some may even welcome the child to be a part of these) are set for Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 27 and 28 from 5-8:30 p.m. The Elementary conferences (some of which may also welcome the child's participation) are set for Thursday, Nov. 5 from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

I urge ALL fathers to begin now to set aside appropriate times to become a part of the 'child-success-team' and to participate actively in the process.

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