

I would like to share with you a number of events and happenings in our district over the last few weeks.

First, I'd like to express my condolences to the family of Margaret Lunsford. Mrs. Lunsford, who died Oct. 5, was a former Fairfield Board of Education member. She worked hard for our schools and our community, and was a true champion of education, teaching for 40 years at Harrison Elementary School in Hamilton.

I'd also like to send my best wishes to a Fairfield graduate, Josh Engel, who was seriously hurt in a car crash recently. Josh, now a student at Miami University, is expected to make a full recovery, but it will take quite some time. He is the son of school board member Arnold Engel and his wife Susan.

At the school board meeting tonight, two items on the agenda are donations that our school district has received this year. The employees of Ohio Casualty (now part of the Liberty Mutual Group) continued their annual tradition of purchasing school supplies and donating them so that our students in need have full backpacks with all the things they need for class. They even donate some of the backpacks. I should note that the employees fund these donations from their own pockets, and it is greatly appreciated. And we especially thank Ohio Casualty's Stacey Andrews, who does all the work coordinating and planning this drive each year. It's wonderful to have support like that from the community.

Another group that donates school supplies to us is the Butler County School Supply Coalition. They provide school supply kits to students throughout the county, and this year donated hundreds of these kits for our students to use. A leader of this effort is Jerome Kearns, in his capacity of assistant director of operations for the county's Job & Family Services Department. Jerome is now a school board member here in Fairfield, but I should note his work with the School Supply Coalition started before he ever joined the school board.

These large donations of school supplies have made the year easier for many of our families.

And last, this week residents of Fairfield and Fairfield Township should be receiving in their mailboxes the newest edition of the Red & White Register, our district newsletter. It's full of information about the Fairfield Schools, including a copy of our school district report card that shows our "excellent" rating from the Ohio Dept. of Education. It also has information about the Permanent Improvement levy that voters will see on the ballot in November.

School districts are not allowed to be involved in political campaigns, even for their own levies. But we are permitted – and I believe we have a responsibility – to provide factual, unbiased information about school ballot issues. So you'll find that in the newsletter.

There's also a wonderful picture from one of our local families that had seven daughters all graduate from Fairfield High School, pictures from Homecoming, a story about lessons we learned during the power blackout, and much more. I encourage residents to read the newsletter to keep up with what's happening in your school district.

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