

**TO: Board Members
Administrative Staff**

Cc: Mike Bock

FROM: Dr. James J. Schoenlein

**RE: Levy Update
School Calendar
Congratulations to Debbie Mears**

DATE: March 26, 2010

Levy Update

We had a good positive upbeat Levy Steering Committee meeting Wednesday night at KFHS. Nice work on the addition of the on-line facet of our campaign, our levy Website and Facebook page. Thanks to Debbie LeValley, Kari Basson, and Toby Boedecker for their work on the levy web site and Shelby Roberts, a parent, for her work on the Facebook page. We are moving into the 21st century. We just put the Facebook page up and have almost 300 “fans” already.

To take a look at and become a fan of our Facebook page, go to Facebook.com – if you are not already signed up, do so – then type Citizens for Kettering Schools in the search bar. Voila !!!

Attached is a timeline of the last month of our levy campaign and a list of April school meetings, gatherings, and events. Please check these over for accuracy and contact us about anything missing.

Please encourage all of our people to be upbeat and positive about our levy. We need to maintain a “success mentality.”

School Calendar

We moved the school year forward one week this year by starting school one week earlier. In doing so, we moved five more days of instruction before standardized testing. The 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school calendars are already set, but we have tentatively agreed with the KEA to move the 2012-2013 school year another week forward. We will start school about mid-August. I don't believe standardized testing is going away anytime soon. Teachers are always agonizing that there just isn't enough time to cover everything before the tests. So, in a matter of 4 years, we will have added

10 additional instruction days to our test-preparation period. This calendar action should definitely help our test scores.

Congratulations to Debbie ! ! ! !

Debbie Mears, revered principal at Southdale Elementary, has accepted a position as Assistant Superintendent in the Franklin City Schools, effective this summer. As everyone knows, the students, teachers, and parents of Southdale love Mrs. Mears. Good luck, Debbie. We miss you already.

Have a Great Spring Break

For Board of Education Members Only

Levy Campaign

So far in this levy campaign, I have covered the meetings, gatherings, and events. As we move into April, we will have some nights when there will be multiple events. So, we will have to divide up to cover everything. We will communicate with each other as to who is covering what.

The first such night is April 6. We have a Board of Education meeting and an Orchard Park PTO meeting. Ken Lackey and Charlie Schuerholz will cover the PTO meeting.

I have been stepping up at the meetings, gatherings, and events I attend to say a few words about the levy. We have not done this as a way of promoting the levy in the past. Usually I get polite golf clapping. Sometimes the situation just doesn't seem right to step forward and talk about the levy. The recent Wrestling Banquet was one such event – there just wasn't a good time to interject myself. As you attend events, you will have to “play it by ear” with regard to speaking about the levy.

School Calendar

Continued from above: I asked the KEA about starting school one week earlier for the 2011-2012 school year, as we did with this school year. The KEA had no objections except that the calendar had already been agreed upon. Melissa Gallagher, KEA

President, said that the 2009-2010 school calendar had been changed after the KEA agreed to it. So, this would be the second time in three years that the school calendar would be changed after the KEA had already agreed.

The final decision on the school calendar is ours, of course. But, Melissa said that the KEA would be disgruntled if, two years in a row, the school calendar was changed after the KEA agreed. She said that, if we left the 2011-2012 calendar as agreed upon, the KEA would be good with starting school another week earlier for the 2012-2013 school year. Even though I believe moving as many days as possible ahead of testing definitely benefits the district test scores, I don't think it is worth creating animosity with the KEA to get five more days ahead of testing when we can accomplish the same thing a year later with no hard feelings. Hope you agree.

April

5

Vote-by-mail mailing to all homes & students

10

Field signs up

15

Levy brochure to all registered voters

Yard signs go up

20

Levy packet to all voters who were sent absentee ballots

Trent-Roush letter sent

Vern postcard mailed

Delman Family postcard mailed

"Cuts" postcard mailed

25

Neighborhood walks

Parent newsletters out

May

4

Levy superintendent call-out

Get-out-the-vote calling project

Levy website & Facebook page up

Levy Steering Committee meeting April 14

Levy message on all school marques

Newspaper Ads

Principals letters home

Vendor fundraising

Neighborhood Levy Coffee Gatherings

KFHS "Turn Out Seniors" Project

Visit Services Clubs, Senior Centers, PTAs & PTOs

Employee Fundraising

Letters to Editor

Tuesday, April 6 th	Orchard Park PTO	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday, April 7 th	Beavertown PTA	6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 7 th	Greenmont PTA	2:45 p.m.
Thursday, April 8 th	Van Buren PTO	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 8 th	Moraine Meadows Play	6:30 p.m.
Monday, April 12 th	KMS PTA (Rm 404)	6 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13 th	Southdale PTO	3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13 th	Moraine Meadows PTO	7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 13 th	OP Science Fair	7 p.m.
Saturday, April 17 th	JE Prass Spring Fair	11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, April 20 th	FHS 8 th -Gr. Orient.	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 22 nd	FHS Musical	7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 23 rd	FHS Musical	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 24 th	FHS Musical	2 and 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 27 th	Prass PTA	7 p.m.
Thursday, April 29 th	Oakview Family Nite	5:30-7:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 29 th	FHS Chamber Concert	7 p.m.