

## Community Update

11-10-17

Greetings! The temperatures have dipped, we have set our clocks back, parent-teacher conferences are upon us, and the winter sports season is underway! On Saturday our boys' basketball team will host Old Fort for a scrimmage. The following week our band and choir will depart for their trip to Florida to perform – we wish them safe travels!

Last week our FCCLA attended their district meeting and were represented by Chloe Blackburn who carried the flag for the ceremony. Kara Schultz and Destiny Simon both participated in the Lighting of the Candle Ceremony. Kudos to the FCCLA team for representing their school so well!

### Veterans Day

While we will not host our bi-annual Veterans Day Community Ceremony this year (it runs on an every other year schedule) we are no less thankful for the veterans in our community who have served so selflessly and sacrificed so much for our freedoms. We are blessed with such a close-knit community of people who are willing to serve others – whether locally or abroad. These veterans and active duty members have made a lasting impact on our world. In an era where divisiveness and discord seem to be on the front page of many media sources, it is worth remembering that our veterans don't serve for political reasons. They didn't sign up to put their dreams on hold and their lives at risk because of their political beliefs. They served their country because of a sense of duty and a willingness to serve others.

We are honored this year to dedicate a memorial plaque to Lance Corporal Dean Shilling (class of 1968) who served with distinction in Vietnam and made the ultimate sacrifice in battle. Thank you to his family, both for their sacrifice, and for loaning us his medals and flag for display in the Board Meeting Room.

### The Mission of Education

In Ohio, and in our nation, we continue to struggle with educational policy. From standards to accountability, from funding to control, we continue to be in a state of constant change. As we reflect on these challenges one constant seems to stand out. In Ohio we do not seem to have a common understanding of the purpose of public education. Without this common sense of the purpose or mission of public education, we cannot develop coherent and consistent education policy that is not only in the best interest of children, but also allows for districts to create opportunities that will best meet the needs of their students.

To that end, a group of 25 superintendents were invited by the Buckeye Association of Superintendents (BASA) to gather in late September to participate in a process that led us to the attached draft of a purpose/vision statement for public education in Ohio. While this representative group established a draft, it is imperative that this effort be firmly entrenched as a grassroots one in which stakeholders have a voice. We are seeking your input on this draft. It is imperative that we hear from those who are most directly affected by educational change – our communities. We have included a survey link below for your use. This survey is anonymous other than a question regarding which county in which you reside. The group of superintendents is scheduled to reconvene to discuss stakeholder input and its impact on the draft on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Your opinions can and will affect this draft and, more significantly, we hope you will make your voices heard at the state and federal level with legislators.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OhioStakeholders>