

## Superintendent's May 2018 Cadet Communicator

Happy May! How many more days of school are left? This is a question that most of us are probably hearing from our children as they anticipate the end of the school year. Fort Frye Local Schools had one school day that needed to be made-up due to school closing for inclement weather. This make-up day was set to be Tuesday, May 29. However, the Board of Education passed a resolution at a special Board meeting to revise the 2017-2018 school calendar. Students will be excused from making up this one school day since the students will have already met the state-minimum-hour requirements for school attendance. Thus, the last day of school for Fort Frye Local Schools students will be on Friday, May 26. Teachers and staff will report to work on Tuesday, May 29, for a professional learning and/or workday. If you have questions about your child's last day of school, please contact the school office.

Our Board and Administration want to have a long-term vision of what education looks like in the next ten to twenty years at Fort Frye and ensure that our facilities support that educational vision for kids. Recently, the District has been interviewing architectural design firms that specialize in school visioning and facility assessment, review, and design in hopes to partner with a firm so that we can engage our students, staff, families, and community in conversations about our long-term vision of education in Fort Frye. Once our vision is more clearly identified, we want facility experts to review and assess our current buildings to determine how they can and cannot support that articulated vision. Further, we want to have a capital improvement plan for properly caring for our aging buildings that addresses roofing, plumbing, electricity, and heating/cooling systems along with student and staff safety. The District is also participating in the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission process to determine if this state-funded program is something the District would ever pursue.

The Board of Education and Administration continue to meet in executive session to review parts of District's safety protocols. We have been studying best practices in school safety and are partnering with the Washington County's Sheriff's Office to complete a physical safety audit of all our school facilities. The District is adding additional security cameras in our schools, and our newest camera system will allow the local authorities the ability to "live" connect into our building security footage in situations where there is a safety threat. We are also working with the contractor who provides our GPS system for our school transportation vans and buses to ensure that local police can access this data at any time if there is a safety threat to our student transportation. Further, we are also pursuing a contract with a private company to assess our schools' practices for promoting and addressing mental and behavioral health needs as well as bullying and suicide prevention in order to garner feedback about how we can improve our services for kids. Research shows that a significant issue in addressing school safety is ensuring that the behavioral and mental health needs of students are being addressed by families and the school.

In school systems, May is a very special time of year. Students are often displaying their musical and artistic talents in special performances, and special activities like prom and field days are planned. The students and staff feel relief after wrapping up the last standardized assessments, and our seniors are in the final days of their "senioritis" as their families prepare for the emotional moment of high school graduation. It is these wonderful times that make being a Superintendent at Fort Frye Local Schools a true blessing, and I thank our Board of Education, students, staff, families, and community for this privilege. The 2017-2018 school year is my fifth year as Superintendent at Fort Frye, and I look forward to great things ahead in the 2018-2019 school year! Have a restful, joyful, and safe summer break!