



Old Fort Local Schools

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LAURA BRYANT, SUPERINTENDENT

THOMAS SILOY, TREASURER

May 23, 2023

Re: District Update

Dear Parents and Community Members,

I am excited to announce that, at a Special Board Meeting this morning, the Old Fort Board of Education acted on three important things.

1. Mr. Don Pratt was hired as our new School Safety Director. This position is similar to an SRO, but with a few differences, the main one being not having the power to arrest. However, Mr. Pratt will perform many of the same duties as would an SRO from the Sheriff's Department. Additionally, at our Board Meeting this morning, the Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Superintendent to name Mr. Pratt as having authority to carry a firearm in our schools, something that is allowable under state law due to Don's background in law enforcement. Don comes to us with 29 years of experience as a State Highway Patrolman. He is passionate about building relationships with kids and staff and has vast training, including extensive active shooter training. While he will mainly be housed at the JH/HS, Mr. Pratt will also make regular visits to our elementary as well. I have the utmost confidence that the district is in good hands with Mr. Pratt in this new role!
2. Mr. Matthew Ayers was hired as our new Athletic Director. We are excited to have split this position away from any administrative or teaching roles, so Athletic Director is his sole responsibility. This will allow Matthew to excel in this role, and he is super excited to get started in Old Fort. He is a recent graduate of BGSU with a B.A. in Education and a minor in Sports Management. Matthew has had invaluable internship, work, coaching, and entrepreneurship experiences that have helped prepare him for this exciting role. Matthew will work some this summer with Mr. Dick to ensure a smooth transition and to provide continuity for our athletic programs. We are beyond blessed to have Matthew Ayers as our new Athletic Director and look forward to where our athletic programs will go in the future under his leadership!
3. Lastly, the Board also adopted a revised 2023-2024 school calendar which was just shared with you. This revision moves graduation to 1:00 next year and also incorporates monthly 2-hour delays for some much-needed professional development time. If you are a parent of a JH or HS student, you may have heard of *Magic Mondays* or *Fantastic Fridays* over the past couple of years. This was our attempt to carve out time for teachers to meet in grade bands and/or department teams for collaborative professional learning. However, since so many staff were needed for student supervision, the time



became counterproductive to team meetings. Therefore, the two-hour delays are creative solution to provide time for teachers to meet in which everyone can remain present, without causing unduly disruption to family schedules. This time will also provide valuable PD time at the elementary as well as we continue our deep dive into literacy and Dyslexia training. The two-hour delays are scheduled for the second Friday of each month and will be for the entire district, PK-12. While we recognize that the scheduled delays are not convenient for anyone, we appreciate your support as we continue to grow our staff to be the best teachers they can be for your child(ren).

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you should have any questions or concerns. I will work through July and transition with the new superintendent, Mrs. Cindy Endsley, over the summer. It's been an honor and a privilege to serve this great district! Thank you.

With Children at Heart,

Mrs. Laura F. Bryant, Superintendent