VOLUME 3 ISSUE 77

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Frequently Asked Questions About the Firelands Local School Issue on the November Ballot

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OCTOBER 29, 2018

What is on the ballot this November for Firelands Local Schools?

In July, the Firelands Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 4.28 mill bond issue on the ballot to build a new high school and repurpose the current high school as the middle school. The bond issue will be for 36 years. We can no longer sit back

and ignore the urgent need to address our facilities. Our middle school is 108 years old and continually causes educational and financial challenges. While challenges in our other facilities are not far behind, we know we have to start by addressing our greatest needs first and that's why we have put forth this plan.

What does the proposed bond issue call for?

The bond issue calls for the construction of a new 9-12 high school. It will be built on district owned property and will be connected to the current high school located on Vermilion Road in Henrietta Township. Once completed our current high school will transition to a middle school, educating students in grades 6-8 and will also serve as our Board of Education. South Amherst Middle School and the Board of Education annex located behind the middle school will close once the new building is completed. The new building will serve as the main entrance and administrative area for all students in grades 6-12 allowing us to enhance the safety and security of the existing high school. Please see page 2 for a conceptual site plan. In addition, a central kitchen and cafeteria will be constructed to maximize resources and serve all middle and high school students. The building project does not include a new stadium, fieldhouse or auditorium. Rather its focus is on bringing our teaching and learning environments up-to-date and serving the needs of our students through enhancing classroom space for academics, arts, vocational agriculture, and physical education.

Why can't the District just renovate the buildings?

At no cost to the district, the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC) assessed all of the buildings. If the cost to renovate a facility to state minimum standards is two-thirds the cost to build new, the state recommends building new facilities. After listening to our community and working with the Building Advisory Committee, the November ballot issue is the first phase of our Master Plan and will start off by addressing

You may view this issue online at: www.firelandsschools.org

The Communities we serve: Amherst, Amherst Twp, Birmingham, Brownhelm Twp, Camden Twp, Florence Twp, Henrietta Twp, Kipton Village, New Russia Twp, South Amherst Village, Vermilion and Vermilion Twp.

our greatest need first, South Amherst Middle School, by building a new high school and moving our middle school students into the existing high school.

Why are the facilities in disrepair – did the district neglect them?

No, in fact, the opposite is true. School buildings do not reach the 108-year, 64-year mark and 57-year mark without careful attention to proper maintenance and upkeep. These buildings have, by far, surpassed the normal life expectancy of school buildings in Ohio. The buildings have served the community and our students well for decades. Our maintenance staff continues to do their best to keep our schools safe and in the best shape possible. This includes spending thousands of dollars each year on basic and Band-Aid repairs to expensive, outdated systems that no longer function efficiently. However, we have reached the point where repairs at South Amherst Middle School are no longer enough.

What can be done to ensure constructions costs are controlled?

The District will work closely with the architect and construction manager to ensure the project is on time and in budget through pre-negotiated guaranteed maximum pricing. Furthermore, the District's agreement with the OFCC provides additional assurances to protect taxpayers' investments.

When is the issue on the Ballot?

The Firelands Local Schools issue is on the November 6, 2018 ballot. On Election Day, polls are open from 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Early voting inperson is underway at both the Erie and Lorain County Board of Elections.

More information is available:

On our website, including two brief videos that explain the project and how and the new 9-12 building will positively impact teaching and learning. Please visit <u>www.firelandsschools.org</u> By phone, at 965.5821 By email, at <u>mvongunten@firelandsschools.org</u>

Mike Von Gunten Superintendent FHS Class of 1995 @FLSDSuper





SCHOOL DISTRICT NEW

NEW HIGH SCHOOL / 6-12 CAMPUS

October 4,

≪

ARCHITECTURAL VISION GROUP, LTD. ARCHITECTS • PLANNERS The Firelands Express

Holiday Preview 2018!



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December 6, 2018

Holiday Preview & Brunch

at Firelands High School 10643 Vermilion Road Oberlin, OH 44074 Deers open at \$45 am

Honoring our Senior Citizens and Retired FLSD Staff

Join us on December 6th at FHS for our annual Holiday Preview. This event is a way for us to say "Thank You" to our retired FLSD Staff and local senior citizens. Our students look forward to entertaining you!

Brunch is provided at no cost as our gift to you this Holiday Season. Doors open at 9:45 a.m.

> Please RSVP to Jennifer at 440-965-5821 ext 1015 or jbutchko@firelandsschools.org by 11-30-18.

Thank you, Friends of Firelands, for sponsoring this event!



Presented by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office



ADULT DRUG EDUCATION

Join us on Wednesday, November 7th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at South Amherst Middle School, for a program every parent, grandparent, guardian or concerned adult should see.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office will be here to educate adults to help them fight against the drug culture in our society.

Due to the mature nature of this program, it is an

ADULT ONLY event.

School is in full swing and great things are happening at SAMS. Student Council members were chosen and are beginning to have their meetings. Our athletic teams have been working so hard and have brought home many wins for SAMS.

10/29/2018

We held our New Student Breakfast on Friday, September 28. We had 24 students participate. They received a special breakfast, Ms. Sullivan decorated the tables with festive tablecloths and decorations, and we discussed how things were going here at South Amherst Middle School. Students all reported being very happy here and that it was very easy to make friends.

We held a Pep Rally on Friday, September 28. Students learned the lyrics to the fight song during Choir. The band played music as students entered and we were able to honor all of our fall sports. The students had a blast and it was so nice to hear them singing the fight song. We held contests and had Firelands shirts to give away.

PTG held their first Walk-a-Thon on Friday, October 5th. They also prepared an amazing meal for us during conferences. We are very appreciative of their help.

We had a wonderful turnout for parent teacher conferences on Oct 3rd and 11th.

One of our main areas of focus is student safety. We have conducted two very successful fire drills, and one tornado drill. We are working with Deputy Northeim on some other safety drills coming soon. The safety of our students is always top priority. Students have also been working on hallway safety and being safe throughout the school day.

Our students will be starting some philanthropic work as we move into the holiday season and I will have much to report on these efforts in November. The school building is alive with meaningful middle school experiences that will leave memories that will last a lifetime. Page 4

The Firelands Express 10/29/2018



FOURTH GRADE HAS A BOOK TASTING

On Friday, September 14th, our fourth grade students participated in a "Book Tasting" during their Reading classes. They were able to spend some time sampling different genres of text and giving some written thoughts of each. Snacks were provided for them based on the different genres. Mrs. Thoms, Mrs. Kerestury and Mr. Nerlich were able to give the students a wonderful experience with various forms of literature.



FIRST GRADE CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY

FES first graders were able to meet some unique individuals on Constitution Day. On September 17th, members of the Sally DeForest Chapter and Firelands Chapter DAR and local SAR (Sons/Daughters of the American Revolution) were guest speakers for some of our students. They visited all of the first grade classes and talked a little bit about the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, clothing they wore back in 1776, and what life was like for children back then. The gentleman holding his hat in the first picture also shared how soldiers hid messages in their hats, as well as how shoes back then were not made with a left and a right; they were made out of leather and the wearer simply had to wear them and break them in to form to their feet. Ouch! Thank you to them for sharing their knowledge with our students.



DONATIONS

FES continues to be grateful to various organizations that have made donations to our school.

Mrs. Kerestury was awarded money from DonorsChoose.org. DonorsChoose.org is the # 1 classroom funding site for teachers. It is a teacherfounded nonprofit organization, and they partner with organizations across the country, allowing anyone to help a classroom in need. Over the summer, Mrs. Kerestury wrote 2 project requests and submitted them to DonorsChoose.org. The first was for several booksincluding different genres and high-interest books, to add more selection to her classroom library. The second project was for several sets of books, which can be used in literature circles/book clubs. Through DonorsChoose.org, she is fortunate enough to have been granted over \$1300 in books to use in her 4th grade classroom!



Mrs. Schneider also received a donation from The Country Shamrock 4H Club. They held a fundraiser and were able to donate money to the FES library to be used to purchase 4H related themed books for our students to check out and enjoy.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued generosity to the students at FES.

PTG

FES continues to benefit from our involved PTG (Parent Teacher Group). Their monthly meetings are one way to find out what is going on in the building and how parents can volunteer and assist. The next PTG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1 at 7:00 pm. We look forward to your attendance to provide input for upcoming events. The PTG Fundraiser pick up is scheduled for November 28th.

Upcoming Events End of 1st quarter is October 26th. Red Ribbon Week will occur from October 29-November 2. Classroom Fall parties will be held on Friday, November 2. No school on Monday, November 5th.

FALCONS ON THE FLY

Wednesday, September 12th FES kicked off the twelfth year of *Falcons on the Fly*, a walking/jogging program for all students. *A huge thanks* to the Firelands Elementary PTG and Bettcher Industries for making this program possible! The FHS Marching Band played while students completed their first laps of the year, and the Falcon mascot cheered everyone on! We are so fortunate to have over 60 parent volunteers who help each year to make Falcons on the Fly a success!

At the beginning of recess each day, children are encouraged to walk or jog 1 lap around our *Falcons on the Fly* path! Many students spend all of their recess time every day walking and running laps while earning credit toward a 5K, 10K, ¹/₂ marathon, and ultimately, joining the Marathon Club!

The main objective of this program is to increase the amount of structured, physical activity time spent by the children. Students learn the lifelong benefits and enjoyment of walking/jogging.





The Firelands Expres

10/29/2018

FOOD SERVICE NEWS

<u>Did you know that the Food</u> Service Department is self-supporting?

- We operate solely off the funds brought in from the sale of breakfast and lunches
- We **do not** require any funding from our general funds. All expenses; food, labor and repairs (unless very costly) are paid from the Food
- Service account

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- We are part of the NSLP (National School Lunch & Breakfast Program) We receive Federal reimbursements for every free, reduced and full pay meal that is sold for breakfast as well as lunch
- We also receive .335 for every meal sold, this is called Entitlement dollars. This is used towards the purchase of center of the plate item as well as the Department of Defense program which is how we purchase the many fresh fruits and vegetables we serve
- Breakfast is served daily at all schools. It is available as soon as your child arrives at school. We offer breakfast in the classroom at the elementary. Students may eat in the cafeteria at the High and Middle school. If approved for meal assistance, the same status applies for breakfast
- Meal applications can be filled out anytime throughout the school year. If you have a reduction in household income or now receive SNAP or OWF, fill out an application
- Students purchasing meals is what keeps us going and funded!
- Online meal application -www.firelands.payschools.com
- Online payment system <u>www.payschoolscentral.com</u> (need student i.d.)
- Online menus w/nutritionals: <u>www.myschoolmenus.com</u>, enter district – enter school the link is also on the Food Service tab
- Free App- my school menus



PLEASE: If you are unsure if your child qualifies for assistance, contact me. I am here to help any way I can. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

JUDY BAUMANN FOOD SERVICE DIRECTOR 440-965-5821 ext. 1011 jbaumann@firelandsschools.org

I want to commend the food service staff for the hard work they put in each day to feed our kids, Thank You!

Looking for Community Information

Firelands publishes a weekly blog on all community activity. If you have a group that is active in the Firelands district, we are happy to post information regarding events, fundraisers, open houses, etc.

> You can visit the blog page at <u>https://</u> <u>ffalcons.wordpress.com</u> and look for Community Updates.

In addition to the Community Updates, a monthly article is published regarding our Falcon Alumni. Topics covered include graduations, engagements, career changes, new businesses, birth announcements and more.

The above information is also shared on Twitter, @Falcon_update, and on our new Facebook page, The Firelands Falcons.

To submit information please contact Jennifer at (440) 965-5821 ext. 1015 or at: jbutchko@firelandsschools.org



The Brownhelm Perfection and BB 4H club members did many different interesting projects this year. Some include, but are not limited to, woodworking, chickens, ducks, gardening, rabbit, turkey, cake decorating, first aid, and more. The club is getting ready for an awards dinner in November, and will restart in January. Everyone is strongly encouraged to join. In 2019 the club will turn 100. Watch for information about our 100th year party, which is planned for July 2019.

Submitted by: Tim Jaskiewicz



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ADULT DRUG **EDUCATION**

Join us on Wednesday, November 7th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at

South Amherst Middle School, for a program every parent,

grandparent, guardian or concerned adult should see.

Franklin County Sheriff's Office will be here to educate adults

to help them fight against the drug culture in our society.

Due to the mature nature of this program, it is an

ADULT ONLY event.

National School Bus Safety Week: October 22st to **October 26, 2018**

This year's theme for School Bus Safety Week is "My School Bus Driver, My Safety Hero". We will continue to emphasize staying out of the danger zone while waiting for the bus. Remember to stay back from the edge of the road at least 10 feet or 10 giant steps. Wait in a location visible by the bus driver. When getting off of the bus make sure that you wait in your designated place of safety, 10 giant steps away from the road until the bus leaves. During the week the driver's will be performing emergency evacuation drills as required by State Law with all grades, so expect some delays after school that week.

There will also be focus on other safety rules regarding bus safety and emergency exits. It is also important for you as parents to discuss bus stop safety, stranger danger and to have an emergency plan if no one is going to be home for them. Additional bus safety information is available on the schools web site on the Transportation tab.

School Bus Safety depends on everybody's cooperation!

PLEASE NOTE: Also as a reminder, with your child's safety in mind, it is our school district policy that no one is allowed to ride the bus home with another student with a note. Our Variance form Policy is available on the School's Website under Transportation.



The staff of Firelands Local School District supports Valor Home of Lorain County!

Thank you to our community for helping us recognize our Military and First Responders at The Falcon Stadium! Our sincere thanks to all that helped make the evening possible:

- Boy Scout Troop #450 for raising the flag ٠
- ٠ Florence Township Fire Department and Ms. Debby Schieve for organizing the flags for our football team to borrow
- The Falcon football team for taking the initiative to show respect ٠ to our guests
- ٠ Our Purple Star leaders (Mrs. Schuster, Mrs. Neal and Mrs. Keener) for organizing a drive to support Valor Home
- Our wonderful staff for supporting Valor Home ٠
- Mrs Jackie Flaczynski for capturing the evening ٠

Most importantly, thank you to the men and women who have or are currently serving and to the safety forces who work so hard to keep us all safe. In addition, we wish our senior who has already committed, Bianca, safe travels.

FIRDIADOS EXDROSS

10/29/2018

CURRICULUM UPDATE Common Professional Development

Day November 5, 2018 at LCCC

An estimated 650 teachers, administrators and service providers in the Clearview, Columbia, Firelands, Keystone and Wellington school districts will be participating in a Common Professional Development Day on Monday, Nov. 5 from 8 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lorain County Community College.

The planning team carefully designed 62 sessions to meet individual professional development needs of both classified and certified staff. Each participant will select four sessions related to their role in the district. This year we are excited to have several faculty from Lorain County Community College hosting sessions to enhance the theme *Preparing Students of Today for Tomorrow.*

With financial support from the Nordon Foundation we can bring in Dr. Paula Kluth, an internationally renowned expert in the field of autism and inclusion, who will be offering four sessions. Participants will start their day with a keynote presentation entitled *I Think I'm Allergic To Nuts-Getting along with difficult people* by motivational speaker, Jeff Joiner. John Hodge, with Premier Speakers Bureau will provide the ending keynote; **Be The One.** New this year, **Corwin Books** is providing resources for door prizes.

"Through this professional learning partnership we are creating a culture of collaboration and increasing knowledge of our staff by strengthening skills that impact student achievement."

Lori Roemer

SEPTEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH Emma Sherban is the first winner of the Firelands Lions Club Student of the Month, voted on by select FHS Staff members and members of the Firelands Lions Club. Teachers nominate seniors, who are then asked to complete an application for Student of the Month. Ripcho Studio donates their picture, which is prominently displayed in the main hallway of FHS. Each Student of the Month is eligible for a Lions Club Scholarship at the end of the year by being named the Firelands Lions Club Student

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES -

of the Year.

Firelands High School hosted Parent-Teacher Conferences on Wednesday, October 3rd and again on Thursday, October 11th. FHS promoted the conferences on the website, through Twitter, and with all-call emails to High School parents reminding them of the event. Thank you to our parents who attended on these dates. Also, College Board hosted a parent/student informational meeting about the switch to the SAT, and how the College Board website uses PSAT data to give the student free SAT preparation through Khan Academy.

FINANCIAL AID EVENING – The Firelands School Counseling Department will host a Financial Aid night on October 11th, at 6:00 pm in the Library Media Center. Speakers presented to parents and students about the workings of Financial Aid and how any student and their family can make a college education both accessible and affordable. Mrs. Zimmer and Ms. Cozza hosted the evening, along with speakers from both LCCC and BG - Firelands and College Now, the organization who assists the FHS Counselors in helping our students make choices about careers and colleges.

ONEVIEW PAPERLESS FORMS – FHS has been progressing with the collection of paperless forms for students, which began at the beginning of the school year. Parents now only need to create an account, and submit student forms on-line, which will save our families time by not having to replicate forms, sometimes several times in the same school year. Parents will also be able to submit athletic forms through One View, reducing what was once 5 different forms, to one page of acknowledgments in One View. Thank you to all our parents who have already completed these initial tasks, and look for students who have yet to submit a form to be given information on how to complete these forms. Information has been emailed to all parents, and is also posted on the FHS website.

<u>**PSAT</u>** – The PSAT, a practice college entrance exam, will be given to all our ninth and 10^{th} grade students, and select 11^{th} grade students who scored in the 65^{th} percentile or better in their 10^{th} grade year. This test, given to the students free of charge, will help prepare them for the Junior SAT test, given to all Juniors in March. This test will be administered on Wednesday, October 10^{th} , beginning at 7:30 am, with the test concluding at approximately 11:30 am. Juniors and Seniors not taking the test have been given the day to either make a college visit, explore colleges, or do a job shadow, all preparing them for their next step in College and Career Readiness.</u>

MIGHTY FALCON MARCHING HOST

PARADE OF BANDS – The Mighty Falcon Marching Band hosted the MFMB Parade of Bands on Saturday, October 6th in Falcon Stadium. The Band hosted five other bands in a night dedicated to outstanding marching band shows. Congratulations to the MFMB on again hosting an outstanding show.

SENIOR NIGHT – The FHS Student Council is hosting Fall Athletics and Band Senior Night on Friday evening, October 12th, prior to the PAC football game against Buckeye. Senior Parents and Athletes will meet in the hallway by the cafeteria to be organized at 6:00 PM. Parents and seniors will be escorted to the field at 6:10 PM with senior being announced at 6:15 PM. The football team will be announced first followed by seniors in the marching band then other sports to follow. Congratulations to FHS Student Council on once again hosting a nice evening for Seniors and their parents.

THE NEW LC EIGHT – Firelands will move into the new Lorain County League, as the Patriot Athletic League will be no more following the 2018-19 school year. The league, otherwise known as the LC Eight, will kick off its inaugural season commencing with the start of the 2019-20 school year. The league has been moving forward with its formation, and the constitution has been ratified by the eight schools, who are, including Firelands, Black River, Brookside, Clearview, Columbia, Keystone, Oberlin, and Wellington. The league by-laws and schedules should be ratified at the November, 2018, LC Eight Principal's Meeting, which are held

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Actention 8th Grade Parents There will be a brief presentation regarding the 8th grade Philadelphia field trip. Thursday, November 8th at 6:30 pm SAMS Small Gym If you are unable to attend, information will be posted on the SAMS website under the 8th grade field trip link following the meeting. Questions should be forwarded to <u>scoultrip@firelandsschools.org</u> Hope to see you there!	Emgragedeet Alert Aler Aler
South Amherst Firemen's Association Barnyard Night Saturday, November 10th, 2018 at 7:00 pm South Amherst Fire Station 105 West Main St.South Amherst, OH	Firelands Band Band Boosters Boosters Ceneral Membership Meetings Firelands Band Boosters meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school band room. Our mission is to provide support for the Firelands Instrumental Music Program. The dates for the 2018-2019 school year are as follows: November 20, 2018
Raffles will included: Turkeys, Hams, Beef Roasts, Pork Roasts, Bacon & Prime Rib	December 18, 2018 January 15, 2019 February 19, 2019 March 19, 2019 April 16, 2019
Sportsman Raffle, 50/50 & Bingo Tips will also be available.	
For more information please call (440) 986-5901	May 21, 2019 June 18, 2019

ALL YOU CAN EAT



FRENCH TOAST, PANCAKE, & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST Wakeman Masonic Lodge 34 Pleasant St.

34 Pleasant St. Sunday Nov. 18, 2018 Time: 9 am to 1:30 pm. Blood Drive & Bake Sale Free Breakfast with Blood Donation Donations Accepted



NOTICE

The Board has a duty to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of all students and staff. To that end, The Board of Education passed a resolution prohibiting the use of all forms of tobacco, including electronic cigarettes, from being used at any time on school grounds, athletics facilities, or parking lots. FIRELANDS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT IS CURRENTLY SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS, KITCHEN, AND CUSTODIAL HELP

If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, please visit our website at: <u>www.firelandsschools.org</u> and click on the employment tab. Find the position you would like to substitute for, then complete and submit an application. You will need to complete a FBI & BCI criminal background check at your own expense, with clear results before you would be considered for any substitute positions. Contact Linda Seman at 440-965-5821 for the Criminal Background Check application to make an appointment at the Educational Service Center of Lorain County, or if you have any questions.



Attention Crafters and Vendors!

10/29/2018

On Saturday, December 1, 2018 The Firelands Band Boosters are having:

- * Breakfast with Santa from 8:00am 1:00 pm
- * Craft Show from 10:00 am 4:00 pm at South Amherst Middle School.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please email the Band Boosters at <u>firelandsbandboosters@gmail.com</u>



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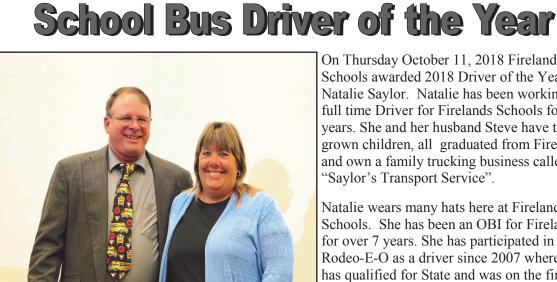
10/29/2018

SaferSchools Ohio

Your Eyes & Ears Could Save Lives!

YOU can anonymously report anything that is suspicious or endangering you, your friends or your school.

Text or Call 1-844-SAFEROH



On Thursday October 11, 2018 Firelands Schools awarded 2018 Driver of the Year to Natalie Saylor. Natalie has been working as a full time Driver for Firelands Schools for 14 years. She and her husband Steve have three grown children, all graduated from Firelands, and own a family trucking business called "Saylor's Transport Service".

Natalie wears many hats here at Firelands Schools. She has been an OBI for Firelands for over 7 years. She has participated in the Rodeo-E-O as a driver since 2007 where she has qualified for State and was on the first place team at State in 2014. She has helped train drivers for other schools including Wellington, Keystone, Lorain Co. JVS, Amherst and Oberlin.

For the past 9 years she has also been in charge of our Safety Town held each summer for our incoming Kindergarten students. She works at the food concessions at all home football games and has taken as many bus trips as time allows.

Natalie Saylor

Besides being a full time Bus Driver she spends much of her free time at the school mowing lawn, helping line the Baseball, Soccer and Football fields, plowing snow and when time permits, she subs within the school buildings as monitor and aid. You ask her to help and she never refuses.

Currently Treasurer for our High School Choir, she has also served as Past President of High School Band, Girl Scout Leader when her daughter Brittany was younger, Boy Scout Leader when her two sons were younger, and served as PTG President at our Firelands Elementary and South Amherst Middle schools and involved in Secret Santa Shop for the Elementary school. Her husband Steve says she is totally committed to the school.

In closing we would like to thank Natalie for her continued years of service and all she does for the Firelands Local Schools.

The Firelands Band Boosters would like to take the time to say THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers! Your dedication and sacrifices are appreciated by all, and we are grateful for your time, hard work, skills, input, and talents! We could not have had as wonderful of a season as we have had without the support of our families and volunteers. For that, the Firelands Band Booster organization would like to say





