

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION

Education in formal classrooms in the townships now comprising the Fairfield Union Local School District began with the first recorded land transfer in 1818. Frederick and Mary Miers donated land for school purposes in Rushcreek Township on the west edge of Jerusalem Cemetery. The school name was East Center.

Prior to the first land transfer, school was conducted in a number of homes, cabins and churches such as the second story of a log spring house which stood on the Frederick Harman, Sr., land along "Zane's Trace."

The best record now available providing the name, location, date and land donors for early public schools and academies was compiled by Charles Goslin. His records are included in this history for the townships and partial townships now comprising Fairfield Union Local School District. Following is a brief description of public schools in each village, the location of one-room schools and their consolidation into the Pleasantville, Rushville and Bremen Local School Districts and the subsequent consolidation and formation of the Fairfield Union Local School District.

### Pleasantville

A cornerstone was laid on August 7, 1860, for the Fairfield Union Academy at Pleasantville. The academy had two brick buildings: a dormitory which contained rooms for the students, reading room, and boarding hall; and the other building contained a chapel, recitation rooms, cabinet and society rooms.

Fairfield Union High School derives its name from the academy.

The last commencement of Fairfield Union Academy was held in 1903 and the buildings were torn down in 1923.

Construction of the Pleasantville High School began in 1900 on the grounds of the academy. The west building housed the elementary students on which site is now a park. The first class to graduate from the new high school was in 1924.

The rural schools of Snake Run, Eight Corners, Baptist Corner and Grange Hall were brought to Pleasantville during the 1920's. A short time later Zeigler, Mock, Oakthorpe and Salem Schools also joined the Pleasantville School District.

Pleasantville and Rushville consolidated in 1957 to form the present Fairfield Union Local School District. Bremen joined with the two schools in 1960. The last graduating class in Pleasantville was in 1962.

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Early Pleasantville, Pleasant Township and Walnut Township Schools

Section	Name	Date Land Given Or Purchased	Land Donor	Location
#5	Colfax	1828	Peter Mocklin	Wheeling Road and Pleasant Run
#2	Pleasantville	1828	David & Barbara Pierce	Pleasantville
	Keller School	1836	Daniel & Susan Keller	Route 188 North of Coonpath Road
#4	Grange	1836	Jacob & Mary Burton	Coonpath Road and Route 188
#11	Eight Corners	1842	T. P. & Anna Ashbrook	Richland Road and Lake Road; Eight Corners Paid \$ .01
#1	Baptist Corners	1849	Lewis & Barbara Beery	Lake Road and Coonpath Road; Paid \$5.00
#3	Zeigler	1853	Jacob & Elizabeth Freeman	Tschopp Road (Old Route 37); Paid \$15.00
	Fairfield Union Academy	1860	John & Catherine Ashbrook	Pleasantville Elem. Present Site
	Locus Grove	1869	William Watson	Stringtown Road North of Carroll Eastern Road
	Pleasantville Grade	1876	James & Mary Hampson	Pleasantville; present site of community park
#17	Feeman Seminary	1860	Joseph Feeman, Principal	Old Millersport Road North of Coonpath Road; 16 Weeks-- \$8.00 Room & Board--\$2.00 per week (Private)
	New Salem	1841	Abraham & Elizabeth Hasbarger	New Salem
	Bope School-- Administered by Pleasant Township School District	1863	J. S. & Juliann Wagner	Pleasantville Road and Route 37
	McNaughten	1870	Andrew & Ruth Spittle	Cattail Road North of Pleasantville; Paid \$40.00

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Bremen

The first village schoolhouse, located on North Broad Street, was built between 1850 and 1860.

In 1870, a two-room brick school building was erected on the present American Legion building site on North Broad Street and is still standing. In 1896, a frame primary building was erected near the brick building.

A four-room brick building was erected due to the oil boom in 1898.

An elementary building was erected in 1912 at the west end of Maple Street and was used continuously through the 1982-83 school year. A new high school on Strayer Avenue was built and in 1926 the students moved from the old Bremen High School to the new Rushcreek Memorial High School building.

Consolidation of the rural schools began in 1925 when Germany and Oak Hill Schools were abandoned. In 1927, Sugar Hill, Geneva and Little Britain were added to the district. In 1930, West Point, Beach Hill and Cross Roads were added to the district. In 1931, Locust Grove, Avalon and College Hill (North Berne) were added to the district.

The school district voted to join Fairfield Union Local School District consisting of Pleasantville and Rushville in 1960. In May, 1962, the last class of high school students graduated from the Bremen building previously known as Rushcreek Memorial High School.

Early Bremen and Rushcreek Township Schools

Section	Name	Date Land Given Or Purchased	Land Donor	Location
#14	East Center	1818	Frederick & Mary Miers	West edge of Jerusalem Cemetery
#3	Cross Roads	1835	Heirs of Frederic Bashore	Road from Leib's to Somerset
#1	Locust Grove	1851	Unknown	Unknown
#9	Oak Hill	1878	Wolf	Oak Hill Road and Route 37
#10	Leib's	1823	Joseph & Elizabeth Leib	Part of Grandview Cemetery
#18	Germany	1865	John & Lydia Driver	Old Route 37
#8	Bremen	1838	George & Catherine Beery	Market Street, Bremen

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#14	Beech Hill	1831-1879	John & Catherine Ashbaugh	Jerusalem Road
#14	Beech Hill	1853	George & Margaret McCandlish	Jerusalem Road
#23	Fairview	1881	John & Martha Stuart	Old Marietta Road
#30	West Point	1872	Isaiah & Lydia Hall	West Point Road
#27	Geneva	1833	Solomon & Margaret Hufford	One mile from Geneva
#25	Sugar Tree Hill	1871	William & Elizabeth McCullough	Bethel Road
#3	Little Britain	1831	Peter & Catherine Heffler	Pleasantview Road
#3	Number Three	1831	Peter & Catherine Heffler	Zwingli Road

Rushville

In the 1850's, East Rushville School was first held in the building which now a grocery store and second floor which is now the Grange Hall. Prior to that, school was held in different community churches. Ben Hanby was teaching in this building when he wrote his famous song, "Darling Nellie Gray."

During the 1880's, the school moved to the Winegardner building across the street on the north side of Main Street. It was later destroyed by fire.

In 1888, a new building was erected at the southeast end of the village. This building consisted of two stories and two rooms.

Near West Rushville on the north side of U.S. Route 22 stands the old West Rushville School. It was built around the year 1840. This school was in existence for approximately eighty years.

About 1908, the West Rushville Board and Rushville Boar joined the two high schools to meet in alternate years in the two villages. The second floor of the Dilger's building was used as the high school. This was very unsatisfactory and it was decided to make the Rushville School the permanent high school.

In 1916, the consolidation of East and West Rushville took place and a new school was built in 1918 in a valley between the two towns. It was named Rushville Union School.

Consolidation of the rural schools came about in the 1920's and early 1930's.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

Pleasantville and Rushville consolidated in 1957 to form the present Fairfield Union Local School District. The last graduating class was 1962.

### Early Rushville Union, Richland Township, and Rushcreek Township Schools

Section	Name	Date Land Given Or Purchased	Land Donor	Location
#6	Woolard	1860	John Woolard & Wife	Woolard Road near Woolard Cemetery
#7	Baker	1827	Christian & Magdalen Baker	Indian Run Road
#8	Oakthorpe	1862	Winegardner	Oakthorpe
#9	Barb's	1834	Peter Barb	Near Drumm Lutheran Church, Thornville Road
#21	Kerlin	1827-1834	John & Lydia Kerlin	Rushville-Oakthorpe Route 664
#19	Snake Run	1834	Daniel & Elizabeth Stevenson	Snake Run Road
#22	Baughman	1827	Jacob & Eve Baughman	Thornville Road at Baker Covered Bridge
#29	West Rushville	1827	Joseph Ijams	West edge of West Rushville
#32	West Rushville	1882	Charles & Cora Carlisle	West edge of West Rushville
#34	Paden	1851-1873	Jesse Paden	East edge of Rushville
#5	Ireland	1865	Leased Land	Ireland Road N.E.

### Formation of Fairfield Union Local School District

After the early consolidation of rural one-room schools into larger school districts in the 1920's and early 1930's, the Pleasantville, Rushville and Bremen School Districts remained relatively stable until the mid 1950's.

A state-wide pressure from the legislature and the Ohio State Department of Education caused numerous evaluations and surveys of possible consolidation of smaller districts in Ohio. The result of a Fairfield County survey in the early 1950's which recommended various combinations of consolidations in the county was many meetings by board members and interested citizens to discuss the desirability and advantages of consolidation. The outcome of those discussions locally was the formation of the Fairfield Union Local School District in 1957 by combining the existing Pleasantville and Rushville School Districts.

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Shortly after the new district was formed, a bond issue was passed to build a new high school building. Before action was taken to build, the Board of Education delayed construction to determine whether the Bremen Local District would decide to join the new district. In November 1959 the Bremen residents voted in favor of transferring to the Fairfield Union Local School District. Committees were immediately set up to select a site for the new building, to determine the type of building needed and to determine the curriculum to be offered. The combined Pleasantville and Rushville Board of Education agreed to permit two Bremen board members to be placed on the new board. In January 1960 the Fairfield Union Local Board of Education consisted of Francis Bope, President; Robert Rowles, Vice President; Robert Whetstone; Lloyd Ruff; and John Walker. In January 1960 the Bremen Local Board of Education consisted of Clark McGhee, President; George Howdyshell, Vice President; Carl Conner; George Griffin; and Frank Koracin. Mr. Francis Bope and Dr. Robert Whetstone resigned from the Fairfield Union Local Board of Education to permit the appointment of Mr. George Howdyshell and Mr. Clark McGhee from the Bremen Local Board. The first board representing the three districts then consisted of Robert Rowles, President; Clark McGhee, Vice President; Lloyd Ruff; George Howdyshell; and John Walker, who also served as clerk. A listing of all subsequent board members and terms of office is included. The consolidation was completed when all assets were transferred in January 1960.

The 1960-61 school year was conducted using the existing buildings. Harry Appler, former Bremen Superintendent, remained at Bremen; William Williams, former Rushville Superintendent, remained at Rushville; and Robert Miller, former Pleasantville Superintendent, remained at Pleasantville and, in addition, serving as Acting Superintendent of the new school district.

Plans for the new high school continued and In May 1960 the board purchased 129.45 acres from Frederic and Pauline Rowles. It was an ideal setting and located in the center of the school district. A.H. Mollenkamp and Associate of Lancaster were employed to plan and supervise construction of the new school. The board encouraged and received much citizen input into the site acquisition, planning and preparation to build the school.

The first organization plan for the district was kindergarten through grade six, grades seven and eight, and grades nine through twelve, or a six-two-four plan. Grades kindergarten through six would be housed at Bremen, Rushville and Pleasantville with grades seven and eight at the Bremen High School building and grades nine through twelve in the new high school.

The first Superintendent, Evan Belville, was employed in August 1961. His responsibility was to oversee the new construction and plan for the reorganization by building for the 1962-63 school year. In 1961-62 school was conducted in each respective building as in the previous year. Construction of the new high school began in May 1961 and was completed in September 1962. Classes were first held in the new building in September 1962. Herman Massie was the first principal.

The first operating levy for the Fairfield Union Local School District of three mills was passed in May 1963.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

Mr. Belville resigned as Superintendent and was replaced by Jacob See in August 1963. Some of the early problems inherent in any newly formed district, especially one comprising three communities, began to decrease and district residents began to become conscious of and supportive of the district as a whole.

In 1963 the district charter was changed from six-two-four to eight-four to meet state standards. This classified grades seven and eight as elementary students. Spring floods in Bremen caused considerable damage to the junior high building. May 31, 1964, marked the first Junior High Commencement Exercise. Congressman Clarence Miller was the speaker. June 1984 marked the retirement of Harry Appler, who was former Bremen Superintendent and first junior high school principal.

During the 1964-65 school year, the Athletic Booster Club began planning a new athletic field at the high school in cooperation with the Board of Education. Without expense to the board, the field was constructed and completed for use in the fall of 1965. During this school year, the board also organized the Land Laboratory Council to oversee landscaping at the new school site and at the other buildings. Superintendent Jacob See resigned at the close of the 1964-65 school year and Alvin Elliot was selected as the Superintendent.

The first Fairfield Union students began attending Lancaster Vocational School in the fall of 1965. Fairfield Union students continued to attend Lancaster Vocational School each year while all Fairfield County districts were striving to form a County-Wide Joint Vocational School.

The Athletic Booster Club raised funds and installed lights at the new athletic field; again, at no cost to the board.

The Fairfield Union Music Boosters also contributed financially to the development of an outstanding music program through their fund-raising activities and donations of equipment and uniforms to the school district.

Alvin Elliot resigned as Superintendent at the close of the 1966-67 school year and Kenneth Warling, who had served two years as High School Principal, was selected as the Superintendent beginning in August 1967.

Frank Brown was employed as the first bus mechanic in 1968 and in 1969 a bus barn was built near the high school. The first Speech Therapist for the district was employed during the 1968-69 school year. In December 1968 the Carnation Milk Company donated its building in Rushville to the district. The first District Maintenance Supervisor, Stan Dupler, was employed in 1968.

Due to a growing enrollment, it was necessary in 1970-71 to reorganize the elementary schools by changing Pleasantville and Bremen buildings to grades kindergarten through four and transporting all of grades five and six to the Rushville building.

In 1972 the Bremen swimming pool, which had been board owned since the consolidation, was

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

donated to the Bremen City Council.

Kenneth Warling resigned at the close of the 1971-72 school year after serving the district for seven years. Russell Midlam was employed as the Superintendent beginning in August 1972. During the summer of 1972 a metal storage building used by the vocational agriculture program was constructed and a tennis court was built near the football field.

Due to increasing enrollment causing a need for additional classroom space and improved educational opportunities for the junior high students, the Board of Education proposed a bond issue of 5.61 mills to build a junior high building adjacent to the high school. The issue was approved by district voters November 7, 1972. Thomas McClorey Associates of Cincinnati were employed as architects. Again the Board and Superintendent encouraged and received citizen and staff participation in planning for the new building. Construction was completed in May 1975 and on May 10 the move was made to the new building with the help of students, parents, and teachers. With the completion of these additional classrooms and the movement of seventh and eight grade students from the Bremen High School building, it was possible to reassign elementary students to relieve overcrowded conditions and reduce transportation.

Girls sports programs at the junior and senior high level were increased beginning in 1976-77 due to the requirement of Federal Title Nine to provide equal opportunities for girls as well as boys in competitive athletics.

Project OHIO (Ohio Handicapped Identification Operation) also was implemented during the 1976-77 school year. The purpose was to identify and locate handicapped students in the school district, determine the type of handicap of each and to provide the best possible educational opportunity for them.

John Walker, Treasurer of the Board since 1960, retired in April and was honored by having the new auditorium named for him by the Board of Education. Sharleen Shumaker, who had served as Assistant Treasurer, was appointed to replace him.

Many school district had provided annual reports to district residents prior to 1976; however, the state mandated and formalized the type of reporting by requiring an "assessment and accountability" program beginning in 1976-77.

Fairfield Union had developed strong extra-curricular programs since formation of the district. Excellence in music, athletics, Future Farmers of America and other programs was encouraged. In 1977-78, a comprehensive extra-curricular policy was developed and provided guidelines for the objectives, organization, funding, accounting and student participation in the program.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

The first full-time district nurse, JoAnn Brubaker, was employed for the 1977-78 school year. A new athletic field house was completed and dedicated on August 26, 1977. The Athletic Boosters donated the building to the board after a three-year effort of planning, funding and construction.

School district offices were moved in December 1978 from the high school building to a residence in West Rushville. This move relieved the greatly overcrowded condition in the high school office area, improved efficiency and provided space for the increasing service and accounting requirements from the Treasurer's and Superintendent's office.

Occupational Work Experience (O.W.E.) Was added to the high school curriculum in 1978-79.

Russell Midlam retired August 1, 1980, after serving eight years as Superintendent of the school district. Donald Keebaugh was employed as Superintendent effective August 1, 1980.

The buildings were wired for educational television during the 1980-81 school year.

Deterioration due to age of some of the older district buildings became a problem for the board and extensive repairs or replacement of them was necessary to provide the proper educational spaces needed for district students. After considerable discussion, it was decided to ask district voters to pass a bond issue to build two new elementary buildings. After several attempts to pass the issue which was rejected by voters, a new plan was developed to repair and renovate the old buildings. This decision was reached after many meetings and input from citizens as to how to resolve the problem. In November 1981, a six-mill levy for operations was passed and a three-mill capital improvements levy was passed in the spring of 1982. These levies provided money to begin renovation of the existing buildings and that process will continue over a period of several years. During the time a solution to the problem of building deterioration was being determined by the board and district residents, it was necessary to reassign students from building to building and use community facilities to conduct the educational program until renovation and repair could begin.

In 1981 a productive gas well was drilled on school property and, hopefully, will save the district money for fuel expenditures.

The first introductory computer course began in 1981-82 by Mr. William Queen. The Baker Covered Bridge was moved to the high school site during the 1981-82 school year and will be maintained by vocational agriculture students.

Mr. Keebaugh resigned as Superintendent at the close of the 1981-82 school year and Charles Bethel was employed as the Superintendent.

The school district lost two outstanding Principals in 1983 due to the death of William Competti who served as Pleasantville Principal for twenty-one years and the retirement of Roy Cunningham who served the district for thirty-one years, nineteen as Junior High Principal.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

Under the leadership of Mr. Bethel, the Board of Education is studying and revising its board policies and administrative regulations which were first adopted and ratified under the direction of Kenneth Warling in 1971. The first women to serve as a Fairfield Union Board Member, Mrs. Julia Lifer, was elected in January 1984.

The continuing effort since 1965 to meet state standards by providing vocational education for high school students was resolved by the board's decision during the 1983-84 school year to cooperate with five other Fairfield County School Districts and join the Eastland Joint Vocational School District. This action has the approval of the State Department of Education and it is part of the plan to build an Eastland Satellite Vocational School in Fairfield County.

### 1984-85 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 1984-85 school year, the reading curriculum was reviewed, and a new course of study was developed reflecting the competency-based education program that was new throughout the State. In January 1985 Larry Kandel was elected President of the Board.

William Queen, high school math teacher, was selected to receive the Lancaster Rotary Outstanding Teacher of the Year award.

### 1985-86 SCHOOL YEAR

During the 1985-86 school year, the mathematics course of study was revised to reflect the requirements of the competency-based education system. Also, the grading system throughout the school district was revised. Miriam Elder, teacher and principal, retired after 31 years service to education. Dr. John Downard served as president of the board in 1985.

The major permanent improvement project for the year was to renovate the restrooms in the Bremen Elementary building.

The high school was accredited by the North Central Association during this year.

### 1986-87 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent Charles Bethel resigned and became Superintendent of the Franklin Local District in Muskingum County. Clark Davis, Superintendent of the Pickerington Schools, was employed to replace Mr. Bethel.

Gene Scott was transferred to principal of the Pleasantville Elementary building, Dan Harris was moved from the assistant high school principal position to junior high principal, Mike Destadio was appointed as assistant high school principal.

In November 1986, the Board requested voters to approve a 7 mill continuing operating levy. The levy was defeated.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

In January 1987, Julia Lifer was elected president of the Board of Education, the first women president in the history of the school district. In May and in August a 5.9 mill levy was submitted to the voters. Both requests were defeated by narrow margins. Voters did renew a 3 mill permanent improvement levy in November.

The major permanent improvement project of the year was to replace the high school gymnasium roof.

Veteran bus driver Richard Boyer retired from service to the district.

The major curriculum project of the year was to revise and update the science curriculum.

A program for gifted students was instituted on a very minimal basis during the year.

### 1987-88 SCHOOL YEAR

Because of the defeat of several requests for additional operating funds, it was necessary for the Board of Education to implement reductions in expenditures amounting to approximately \$300,000 per year. This included elimination of about 15 employee positions, several coaching positions and implementation of a fee charge to students for participation in extra-curricular activities.

An on-site review of the high school program by a North Central Evaluation Team. Accreditation by North Central continued following the review.

A 5.9 mill levy was submitted to the voters in November 1987 and was narrowly defeated. Because of overcrowding in the Bremen building, elementary boundaries were shifted, transferring several roads immediately south of Route 22 to the Pleasantville attendance area. A 6.9 mill levy was submitted to the voters in May 1988 and was again narrowly defeated.

James Ketcham received the Honorary American Farmer Degree Award, and Rick Hartung, O.W.E. teacher, was recognized as the State Vocational Teacher of the Year.

Louise Eyman, business teacher; Marjorie Derr, junior high teacher and elementary principal; and Alva (Bud) Keller, custodian, all retired during this school year.

### 1988-89 SCHOOL YEAR

Once again because of the defeat of an operating levy in May 1988 it was necessary to make further reductions. A custodian was eliminated and hours were reduced for several employees.

In the educational program area, junior high home economics and industrial arts were dropped completely from the curriculum because of a lack of funding. However, prekindergarten programs were offered for students who do not seem to be quite ready for regular kindergarten.

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Finally, at the junior high level, the academic curriculum was strengthened by offering advanced or accelerated math and English to eligible eighth grade students.

In the facilities area, the high school gymnasium bleachers and the coal-fired furnaces at Pleasantville were replaced.

In the personnel area, Jim Ketcham and Tom West retired, but both were re-inserted for part-time teaching positions. Bremen Head Cook Anna Glidden retired.

During Spring 1989 Connie Heck, Consultant, Ohio Department of Education, conducted an evaluation/review of the school district. Although the overall evaluation was very positive, deficiencies were noted in the absence of elementary guidance services and elementary library/media services.

Finally, Rick Hartung, O.W.E. Coordinator, was named Ohio Trade and Industrial Section Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Vocational Association.

### 1989-90 SCHOOL YEAR

School finance has once again dominated the headlines of the school district this year. In November 1989 voters rejected a 3/4 of 1% income tax issue, but then at the May Primary of 1990 voters passed the 3/4 of 1% income tax issue, which should provide some longer term financial stability for the school district.

The "old" Bremen building located on School Street was transferred to the Village of Bremen with a provision for the school district to share in future profit making ventures, if any; the agreement also included a provision that the Village could return the building to the school district if village plans do not materialize.

Four new staff members joined the school district--Brad Changet, Carole Osborne, Christina Rienschild and Ken Millisor. School bus drivers were recognized by Nationwide Insurance for the safe driving record during the past several years.

In the facilities area, many miscellaneous projects were completed. The largest project was the Bremen boiler replacement.

Finally, in the instructional area, an accelerated "college prep" track of courses was offered at the high school in addition to the regular "college prep" track.

### 1990-91 SCHOOL YEAR

The major change in school operation for the 1990-91 school year was a reorganization of administrative responsibilities at the Junior-Senior High School. For administrative purposes, the Junior-Senior High School began operating as one unit with Dale Ferbrache serving as

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Coordinating Principal for the facility. Mike Destadio assumed the role of Principal of Instruction with primary responsibility in the area of curriculum and instruction for grades 7-12. George Shreyer served as Athletic Director along with disciplinary responsibility for grades 7 and 8. There were three purposes of the reorganization:

1. To more efficiently organize the administrative staff.
2. To better use the strengths of the administrators.
3. To permit more emphasis on instructional improvement and curriculum development.

The major change in facilities was the replacement of the windows in the Bremen and Pleasantville buildings.

Five employees retired this year--John Brehm, Custodian; Don Hockman, Bus Driver; Joyce Shaw, Cook; Richard Watson, Bus Driver; and Tom West, Teacher.

The Ninth Grade Proficiency Test was administered for the first time this year.

### 1991-92 SCHOOL YEAR

Larry Kandel, Fairfield Union Board Member, was elected President of the Ohio School Boards Association, which brought very significant honor to the school district and to Fairfield County. In November voters renewed the three mill permanent improvements levy that was originally approved in 1982 and renewed in 1987.

In cooperation with Johnson Controls Corporation, the school district used an Ohio law that allows school districts to make energy efficiency changes to school facilities and then pay for those changes with the energy savings. The changes included in the project were to install a computerized energy monitoring and control system, change incandescent lighting to fluorescent lighting, convert the junior high facility from electricity to natural gas heat, replace the 30 year old high school boilers, and insulate piping in the junior-senior high school building.

In other facilities improvements, the windows and doors of the Rushville building were replaced and the high school gymnasium floor was replaced.

In the area of personnel, Dorothy Hudson, Teacher; Nancy Truesdell, Teacher; and Mary Temple, Cook, retired. Mike Myers and Kelly White were employed as new teachers and Gary Burke was employed as Varsity Girls Basketball Coach.

Academically, the high school course credit requirement increased from 20 units to 21 units of credit.

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### 1992-93 SCHOOL YEAR

In November 1992 voters approved a one mill bond issue for 27 years that provided the following facility improvements:

- A Junior-Senior High School cafeteria expansion.
- Two additional Junior-Senior High School classrooms
- Expansion of the Junior-Senior High School auditorium
- Two additional classrooms at Rushville
- The addition of a fitness center at the Junior-Senior High School.
- Miscellaneous improvements to High School Science Department and to Bremen and Pleasantville.

Phase I of the project was completed in Fall 1993. The cost for this phase of the project was \$608,000.

The bond issue was approved with no increase in taxes because one mill remaining on the junior high building was retired in 1992 and the one mill approved for the new addition went into effect in 1993.

Instructionally, a major change was implemented in the special education program. Two disabling conditions--Developmentally Handicapped and Specific Learning Disabled--were included in the same classroom. The purpose of this was to bring greater flexibility in scheduling and to provide students with more opportunities to learn in regular classrooms.

Three new employees joined the staff--Terry Markwood, Cindy Kishler and Lois Huston.

The Athletic Boosters launched some very ambitious plans during Summer 1992. They purchased and erected new football field lights and new visitor bleachers, saving taxpayers of the school district approximately \$150,000.

### 1993-94 SCHOOL YEAR

The Athletic Boosters installed an all-weather track at the high school site. This project would have a value of about \$150,000 if it had been bid and purchased in the traditional way.

In April 1994 Phase II of the construction program was bid, which resulted in the construction of the Junior-Senior High School activity center at a cost of \$656,000.

Marilyn Leitnaker joined the school district. Clara Mathias retired as Food Service Director and Alice Duvall was promoted to the position of Food Service Director. Starr Martin was appointed Principal of Rushville Middle School and Rick Burns moved to Principal of Bremen Elementary School only.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

### 1994-95 SCHOOL YEAR

In the 1994-95 school year a Comprehensive Plan was developed for the school district that included plans in seven areas as follows: Curriculum and Instruction, Facilities, Personnel, Communications, Staff Development, Financial Operations, and Support Services. Also, a district-wide technology plan was developed to guide the district into the area of instructional technology.

During the school year the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test was added to compliment the Ninth Grade Proficiency Test.

The Village of Bremen returned the "old" Bremen building to the school district. Later in the school year the property was given to local builders Gary and Rick Winegardner in return for their razing the building and removing the debris. New flooring was installed in the Bremen gymnasium.

There were a number of noteworthy student accomplishments.

One hundred percent of the Class of 1995 passed the Proficiency Test required for graduation.

The Marching Falcons and Symphonic Band qualified for State Competition.

Ben Myers placed second in the State Cross Country Meet and second in the 1600 meter run in the State Track Meet.

The Baseball and Boys Basketball Team were Mid-State League Buckeye Division Co-Champions.

Over 300 students participated in the local science fair.

The Junior High MathCounts Team placed first in regional competition.

The FFA Chapter received a Gold Chapter Rating indicating that the chapter was one of the top five in the State of Ohio.

In the instructional area, the major activity was a study of the math curriculum. The study was a result of dissatisfaction with math results on proficiency tests.

A number of new teachers were added this year including Karen May, Barbara Waites, Lisa Elder, Judy Keller and Mike Miller.

### 1995-96 SCHOOL YEAR

The major project during the 1995-96 school year was to implement a state initiative called SchoolNet, which provided wiring, computer workstations and network hardware for both a local area network and a wide area network for the school district. The school district was also awarded a SchoolNet Plus grant that will provide additional computers for grades K-4 at each of the elementary buildings.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

In other facilities improvements, the junior high lockers were replaced. Plans were underway for a second energy conservation project that would involve replacement of high school windows and doors, junior high doors and new lighting throughout the school district.

The sixth grade component of the Proficiency Test was added.

In Fall 1995 Sharleen Shumaker retired as Treasurer and Kevin Miller replaced her in that capacity.

### 1996-97 SCHOOL YEAR

The school district received state SchoolNet Plus funds, which provided about \$210,000 for the installation of five computer workstations in each classroom, grades K-4.

In May 1997, voters overwhelmingly renewed the 3.0 mill permanent improvement levy. The district continued to use these funds to upgrade facilities. Major projects included replacing the JH gym bleachers, upgrading the HS boys locker rooms, and constructing storage space at Rushville.

Also, the second energy conservation project was completed involving the following:

High School--New windows, new exterior doors, new lighting and gymnasium airlock.

Junior High--New entrance doors and all other exterior doors, new lighting, and an entrance airlock.

Bremen, Pleasantville and Rushville--New lighting and at Bremen only, a new boiler.

The Social Studies Course of Study was revised.

In the personnel area, Tammy Shelly became the District Technology Coordinator in a new part-time position. Patricia Wickline replaced Mrs. Shelly as a part-time business teacher.

### 1997-98 SCHOOL YEAR

In the technology area, the communications network was completed, linking all five sites to an electronic network. The high school computer lab was updated.

Several facilities improvements were made. Sidewalks were replaced at Bremen and Pleasantville, exterior masonry was repaired at all three elementary buildings. The gymnasium floor covering at Rushville was replaced. At the Junior-Senior High building, a storage building was constructed.

In the personnel area, Christian Barnett, Janis Foster, Scott Philabaum and Chris Walton joined the Fairfield Union teaching staff. Rod Schultz was employed as a custodian.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

### 1998-99 SCHOOL YEAR

This school year was a major year for facilities improvements. Aided by a \$500,000 state grant, nearly \$1,000,000 in total improvements were made. The state grant provided major renovations to the JH/HS sewage treatment plant, the junior high roof was replaced, and the south side junior high masonry was constructed. The other major facility improvement was the installation of four modular double classrooms, one modular unit at each site.

On January 11, 1999, a serious emergency situation developed at the Junior-Senior high building. A water line froze and burst setting off a series of unfortunate events that resulted in the flooding of the boiler/utility room. The damage was extensive, exceeding \$300,000. Fortunately, all of the loss was insured.

The third energy conservation project was completed, including replacing the major heating/cooling unit for the JH building, installing a back-up power generator for the JH/HS, improving air circulation in the Bremen building, replacing the boilers at Rushville, and upgrading the energy management system.

Several new teachers joined Fairfield Union staff, including Scott Burke, Jodi Forsythe, Debbie Gatton, Karen Roberts, Denise Schoonover and Eric Vivian. Patricia Keefer was employed to begin a new program for gifted students. George Shreyer moved to part-time status, and Mike Myers became Assistant Junior-Senior High Principal. Mike Destadio became Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

### 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR

In the winter and spring of the 1999-2000 school year, the district engaged the services of the Burgess & Niple Architectural Firm to begin developing a facilities master plan. The reason for this action was to prepare for state financial assistance when the district becomes available. During the spring of 2000, two plans were developed. Both plans involved renovating the high school and constructing a new grades 6-8 middle school. The difference in the plans involved the Bremen and Pleasantville buildings. In the New Traditions Plan, both Bremen and Pleasantville would be renovated and expanded to accommodate grades K-5. In the Millennium Plan, both of the current buildings would be replaced by new buildings.

In the fall of 1999, James Bope was elected to the Board of Education, replacing Jenny Markwood.

In the personnel area, Tim Bahen, James Miller, Craig Orr, Rachel Schmelzer and Lavada Moorman, were employed as new teachers. Cecil Hanes, Dan Gallagher and Mary Peters were employed as support service employees. Tom Pugh was assigned to building maintenance responsibility.

## HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

### 2000-01 SCHOOL YEAR

During the fall of 2000, the community was engaged in reviewing the New Traditions and the Millennium facility plans. The community indicated a preference for the New Traditions plan. Then, during the winter of 2001, the Ohio School Facilities Commission conducted an assessment and developed a third facilities plan. During the spring of 2001, the community was once again engaged to consider the New Traditions Plan in relation to the OSFC plan. After several community meetings, the members of the Review Committee developed another option, indicating a preference for renovating the Junior-Senior High building, constructing a new grades 6-8 building, and constructing two new grades K-5 buildings on the existing sites in Bremen and Pleasantville. This plan was presented to the OSFC in July 2001 and received OSFC approval.

During the spring of 2001, the district purchased approximately 43 acres of land from Franklin and Dorothy Snyder located on Route 22 east of the existing junior-senior high school site. It is presumed that this will become the site for a future middle school building.

In the personnel area, Gene Scott transferred as Principal of Pleasantville to Rushville. Rebecca Parrott was employed as Pleasantville Principal. Scott Philabaum and Jennifer McClure Spillers were employed as teachers, and Cheryl Brumbaugh, David Foltz and Cathy Young were employed as support service employees.

In June 2001, the district suffered a major loss with the death of veteran Board member, Charles Dupler. Jenny Markwood was appointed to fill Mr. Dupler's unexpired term through 2001. Also, Larry Kandel left the Board in March 2001 because of health reasons. Dave Rodenbaugh was appointed to complete Mr. Kandel's term.

HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

FAIRFIELD UNION BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Robert Rowles	1960-1969	10 Years
Clark McGhee	1960-1971	12 Years
Lloyd Ruff	1960-1963	4 Years
George Howdysshell	1960-1962	3 Years
John Walker	1960-1961 (Feb.)	1 Year
Robert Whetstone	(Feb.) 1961-1973	13 Years
Eugene McClelland	1963-1969	7 Years
Francis Bope	1964-1975	12 Years
David Barr	1970-1973	4 Years
Edward Wolfe	1970-1981	12 Years
Paul Shull	1972-1976 (Aug.)	4 Years
Charles Dupler	1974-2001	27 Years
Jerry Hampson	1974-1975	1 Year
Thomas Ansel	1975-1981	7 Years
Bill Smith	1976-1979	4 Years
Joe Kilbarger	(Aug.) 1976-1979	4 Years
Kermit Kemmerer	1980-1983	4 Years
Darrell Myers	1980-2011	32 Years
Larry Kandel	1982-2001	19 Years
John Downard	1982-1993	12 Years
Julia Lifer	1984-1991	8 Years
Jennifer Markwood	1992-1999	8 Years
Jennifer Markwood	(June)	2001-2001 (Dec.) .5 Year
Ralph Tolbert	1994-2001	8 Years
Jim Bope	2000-	Present
David Rodenbaugh	(Apr.) 2000-	Present
Doug Barr	2002-2009	8 Years
Kevin Kemmerer	2002-	Present
Eric Mahler	2010-	Present
Todd Hoffman	2012-	Present

HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Robert Miller, Acting Superintendent	1960-1960	1 Year
Evan Belville	1961-1963	2 Years
Dr. Jacob See	1963-1965	2 Years
Alvin Elliott	1965-1967	2 Years
Kenneth Warling	1967-1972	5 Years
Russell Midlam	1972-1980	8 Years
Donald Keebaugh	1980-1982	2 Years
Charles Bethel	1982-1986	4 Years
Clark Davis	1986-2006	20 Years
Jim Herd	2006-	Present
Mike Destadio, Director of Curriculum & Instruction	1998-2006	8 Years
Mike Destadio, Assistant Superintendent	2006-	Present

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Herman Massie	1962-1963	1 Year
Burch Oglesby	1963-1965	2 Years
Kenneth Warling	1965-1967	2 Years
Curtis Fleisher	1967-1970	3 Years
Rex Beavers	1970-1975	5 Years
Tom Heisey	1975-1977	2 Years
Dr. Norman Cutright	1977-1980	3 Years
Administrative Assistant	1980-1981	1 Year
John Riley	1980-1982	2 Years
Nelson McCray	1982-1984	2 Years
Dale Ferbrache	1984-	Present
Assistant Principal	1977-1984	7 Years
Dan Harris, Assistant Principal	1984-1986	2 Years
Michael Destadio, Assistant Principal	1986-1988	2 Years
Principal of Instruction	1990-1998	8 Years
George Shreyer, Assistant Principal	1988-1990	2 Years
	1998-2009	11 Years
Matt McPhail, Assistant Principal	2009-	Present

HISTORY OF FAIRFIELD UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BEFORE AND AFTER CONSOLIDATION (CONTINUED)

ELEMENTARY AND JUNIOR HIGH PRINCIPALS

Roy Cunningham	1953-1983	31 Years
Harry Appler	1961-1963	2 Years
Bremen Superintendent	1953-1961	8 Years
William Competti	1962-1983	21 Years
Donald Miller	1968-1970	2 Years
John Conrad	1970-1976	6 Years
Gene Scott	1971-2005	34 Years
Frederick Burns	1976-	Present
John Riley	1978-1980	2 Years
Marjorie Derr	1983-1987	4.5 Years
Miriam Elder	1983-1986	3 Years
Dan Harris	1986-1987	1 Year
John Snider	1988-1989	1 Year
George Shreyer, Assistant Junior High	1990-1998	8 Years
Michael Destadio	1988-1990	2 Years
Starr Martin	1993-2000	7 Years
Rebecca Parrott	2000-2010	10 Years
Mike Myers, Assistant Junior-Senior High	1998-2005	7 Years
Mike Myers	2005-	Present
Matt McPhail, Assistant Junior-Senior High	2005-2009	4 Years
Scott Philabaum, Assistant Middle School (5-8)	2009-2010	1 Year
Scott Philabaum	2010-	Present
Chris Walton, Assistant Middle School (5-8)	2010-	Present