

DISTRICT NEWS HEADER:

August 20 Community Partners Press Release

Wadsworth City Schools hosted the Community Partners Press Conference on Wednesday, August 20, when the partners announced they support a plan to build new schools and a community center. The partners have worked hard at reducing the total cost of the project and the outcome is “a unique opportunity for our community.”

INSIDE NEWS INFORMATION

The Community Partners held a Press Conference on Wednesday, August 20, to announce their plans for a Wadsworth Community Campus. The Community Partners including Dale Fortner, Superintendent of W.C.S.; Robin Laubaugh, Mayor of Wadsworth; Jim Pope, CEO and President of WRH Health System; and C. Allen Nichols, Director of Wadsworth Public Library, have worked together to create a community campus that meets the needs of the community with a reduced cost by sharing services, expertise, and programming.

The collaboration started after W.C.S. found out the district had moved up on the list to receive money from the Ohio School Facility Commission. Community members and W.C.S. staff had already formed the W.H.S. Advisory Committee and had been meeting throughout 2006 and 2007 reviewing the needs for a new high school when news from the O.S.F.C. arrived. When the group saw that some of the amenities planned for in a new high school were also amenities being sought by The City of Wadsworth, WRH Health Systems, the Center for Older Adults and even Wadsworth Public Library, a partnership was formed. The cost savings to a community that shares recreation facilities, swimming pools, health and wellness centers, and staffing could not be ignored.

The OSFC is helping fund schools in an effort to improve the quality of Ohio school facilities. The W.C.S. district has been assessed by the OSFC and their original recommendation is to replace W.H.S., Central Intermediate, Overlook, Valley View, and Isham with four buildings and combine two elementary schools on a new location. W.C.S. administration worked with OSFC to maintain historic C.I.S. and to keep the neighborhood school concept. At this time, W.C.S. would receive \$.36 on each dollar spent on qualifying aspects of the project once the OSFC awards money in 2009.

The Community Partners felt the only way to bring this to the community was to meet the community needs found in the results from the Community Survey (done in March 2008) and to find applicable funding to take the burden away from taxpayers. The schools portion of the project will be financed by using the OSFC dollars (\$.36 for each dollar spent), the Sales Tax Contribution for schools, and a 5.9 Mill Bond Issue. The community center portion of the project will be financed by partner contributions and a capital corporate campaign.

The plans for a Wadsworth Community Campus are posted on this webpage. For more information, please contact one of the Community Partners listed below.

Dale Fortner, Superintendent of Wadsworth City Schools
Robin Laubaugh, Mayor of Wadsworth
Jim Pope, CEO and President of WRH Health System
C. Allen Nichols, Director of Wadsworth Public Library