

September 7, 2010

It has been a really pleasure to serve our local constituents on the Owen J. Roberts School District. Since my time of being sworn in December, I have come to find that our school system has many hurdles in the next few years. One thing that really stood out the most of our school is the tremendous amount of unfunded mandates that are placed on our school. These mandates make up a large portion of the budget and when they go unfunded the school must make up the difference.

This year the school actively involved many local community members in various aspects of the school. One of the main opportunity included the school's budget and process of how it reaches its final conclusions by fiscal year end. The school was able to stay within the index that the State sets individually for each School District. This year's Index was 2.6%. One concern that may need to be addressed in the early fall will be the lower 2011-2012 state index. At that time the School Board will make a concerted effort again to include all stakeholders of the District to look carefully at the budget and make educated decisions on programs.

The School Board consists of highly educated individuals with similar goals. The focus on providing the best possible education for our students while maintaining a concerted effort when it comes to the fiscal responsibility the school has with the tax payers.

I recently was able to take a tour of our newly remodeled Middle School. It was a pleasure seeing this project come to completion while also being under budget. The school is very state of the art when it comes to technology which will bring new horizons in learning for our Middle School Students.

I have and continue to enjoy my role with the School Board and look forward for more involvement with our community to help Owen J. Roberts to become the "Standard" in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

James B. Frees II

School Board Director

East Coventry Township

