

## **In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent**

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

### **Balanced Calendar Community Forum and Election Results**

The Board of Education and administration plan to hold a community forum regarding the balanced calendar concept. As previously communicated, only the study and evaluation of this concept is currently taking place to see if it would be beneficial for our school district. *No decisions have been made.*

The community forum will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 in the High School lecture room @ 6:30 PM.

The balanced calendar concept distributes the school year equally over 11 months instead of 9 months. A traditional school year has the months of June, July and August off as summer break. The balanced calendar would have school in session during the months of June and August. The school year would still reflect the same required amount of days that are determined by the State of Michigan, however, the required days would be “balanced” over 11 months of the calendar.

At the community forum on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, conceptual calendars will be presented and discussed. Questions from the district’s website survey will also be part of the forum.

After the presentation and any general questions and answers with the audience, we plan to break-out into two groups. One group will be an elementary, K-6 group, and the other will be a secondary, 7-12 group. The elementary group will stay in the lecture room and secondary group will shift over into the high school media center. Building principals will facilitate the break out session conversations and will focus on specific concerns related to elementary and secondary level programming, activities and events for those grade levels.

The forum and break-out sessions should last about an hour to an hour and a half. If your schedule allows, please attend on December 2, 2015. Eventually, the concept of changing from a traditional calendar to a balanced calendar will or will not be recommended to the Board of Education. It is anticipated that this will take place sometime in the spring of 2016. Again, at this time no recommendation has been put forth and no decisions have been made.

The Building and Site sinking fund millage proposal was not supported by the community on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. The vote tally from the election was 1,984 NO and 1,017 YES. Clearly in both the August and November elections, the majority of voters did not want the requested millage for the school district. The Board of Education had conversation on Monday, November 9, 2015, regarding the results. It was determined to “put this on the shelf” at this time. However, the board and I are concerned that the items identified in the facility audit are real and the associated costs for them will be coming due in the near future. The Board will have additional dialog in the coming months on finding financial resources to attempt to keep pace with the district wide facility maintenance.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!