

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

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

Volunteers Invaluable at CPS

I personally want to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that donate their time to benefit our students and programs at Charlotte Public Schools. I sincerely appreciate everything that is done by everyone that contributes to our school district at all levels. To be specific, there are individuals, PTO and parent advisory groups, and band and athletic boosters that all spend considerable volunteer time to make our school district a great place to learn and excel. Let me share a few examples:

Individuals – we have an amazing amount of individual parents and community members that come to our buildings and work one on one with students in core subject areas. Many times this one on one work is related to our youngest children learning to read at our elementary levels. This involvement is critical as reading and comprehension is the foundation for educational growth and success. Several of the individuals that contribute in the classrooms are part of service organizations in our community.

PTO and parent advisory groups – we have these at every level in our school district. The parents that volunteer with these groups and organizations are involved in fundraising efforts, school improvement activities and supervision of afterschool events or activities. The fundraising efforts frequently result in additional instructional materials, support for field trips, and additions to the building infrastructure or the quality of the building including security features. Parent groups will often provide meals to staff before parent/teacher conferences and influence certain school improvement efforts with teachers and administration. Simply put, these individuals who step forward and offer building level support are vital to the school culture and positively impact student and school success. Parents are welcome to get involved by contacting the respective school main office or the building principal.

Booster groups – Band and Athletic booster groups have a “Board of Directors” with officer elections, terms and assignments. Each group meets regularly with specific agendas and processes followed. Band Boosters meet on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the High School band room in the Charlotte Performing Arts Center. Athletic Boosters meet the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the High School. Parents and community members are always welcome and encouraged to participate in either group. If interested, contact the High School main office and you will be put into contact with the leadership of the booster groups.

The Athletic Booster’s primary fundraisers are: the annual booster reverse raffle and dinner, fast approaching on May 7th, an annual golf outing, DRIVE 4 UR school with Candy Ford of Charlotte which was recently held on April 23, concession stands at the stadium and dome, 50/50 sales, and spirit booth items. Revenue raised by these efforts go directly back to supporting athletic teams. Examples of recent support provided by the Athletic Boosters are: cheer banners, football equipment and uniforms, purchase of a TV and DVD player for team scouting, a financial

contribution for the tennis court re-surfacing project with the City of Charlotte, student spectator buses to away competitions, a financial contribution for the new dome scoreboards, uniforms and lane fees for the bowling teams, track equipment and annual scholarships provided to male and female student athletes that have excelled on the playing fields or courts and in the classroom. Each year, the athletic boosters provide support to our many teams based upon whatever needs are apparent and/or through the requests of the Coach or Athletic Director.

The Band Booster's primary fundraisers are: their annual apple pie sales each fall, wreath and garland sales during the holidays, pizza kit sales, concessions stands at the stadium and dome, and chocolate candy bar sales. Revenue raised by the band booster's efforts go directly to support band activities and events throughout the year, such as: marching band camp, hosting festivals or attending other MSBOA events, and band trips (when applicable).

Both of these booster groups, the PTO organizations and the individual volunteers support hundreds of our students annually. Their outstanding support happens year in and year out. Again, let me extend my deep appreciation to all volunteers who step forward and provide support to our students at every level.

Our students also donate many volunteer hours to our community and school district. I believe the students recognize the value of volunteering as it is modeled by their parents and other adults in Charlotte. The students give back and do so with great energy and purpose. The volunteer efforts by our parents and students result in Charlotte being a great place to live and learn.

THANK YOU!

- Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!