

# Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

**A**ny company would be lucky to have an employee who brings decades of knowledge and experience to the job.

That's what Pickaway County schools gets with its five-member governing board: President Richard Everman, Vice President Pat Southward, and members Bob Bower, Jeanne McDowell and Byron Welch.

This group is responsible for decisions that benefit the county schools, students and staff and is committed to making Pickaway County ESC a valued and valuable contributor to our partners: Circleville City Schools, Logan Elm, Teays Valley and Westfall local schools, Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center, the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Help Me Grow and the Family and Children First Council.

An average monthly board meeting can have them voting on such issues as the approval of financial matters, a substitute teacher list, payment of bills and providing services to a new client.

While the topics may appear to be mundane, the work is integral to the running of our schools. And it wouldn't be possible without the governing board members, who together have served 65 years.

Each board member is retired, with all of them having worked in education at some point.

Richard is a former teacher and administrator; Pat is a retired school psychologist; Byron is a retired teacher; and Jeanne was a teacher before becoming a Realtor. Bob worked for many years at Salt Creek Elementary as the custodian.

Richard, Bob and Byron also serve on the board of education for Pickaway-Ross.

Serving on the governing board is a choice, as residents run for a seat and if elected, serve a four-year term.

They commit to giving their time and energy and are a dedicated group who want good things



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The Pickaway County ESC Governing Board, front row, from left, Byron Welch, Richard Everman and Bob Bower; back row, from left, Treasurer Kristin O'Dell, Pat Southward, Jeanne McDowell and Superintendent Ty Ankrom.

to happen for the county's students and for our staff.

While the ESC does not have its own students, the staff members we employ who work in the county schools have a direct impact on the opportunities available for students to succeed.

And none of that could happen without Richard, Pat, Bob, Jeanne and Byron.

January was designated School Board Recognition Month in Ohio by the Ohio School Boards Association and I'm proud to recognize them for their contributions to Pickaway County education.

Board members give a great deal to their communities. It is an honor to work with them and to thank them for their service and dedication.

*Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center. He can be reached at [ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org](mailto:ty.ankrom@pickawayesc.org).*

