

Here's what I think ...

By Ty Ankrom

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January is designated as School Board Recognition Month and I'm proud to say "thanks" to the ESC's Governing Board: President Richard Everman, Vice President Patricia Southward and members Bob Bower, Jeanine McDowell and Byron Welch.

The board meets every month and each member serves a four-year term.

For those who serve on school boards, the work can extend past the monthly meeting as board members take time ahead of each meeting to review resolutions and recommendations they will be asked to approve. Some boards also have committees that require additional meetings during the month.



The Pickaway ESC Governing Board are, front row, from left: Richard Everman, Byron Welch and Bob Bower; back row, from left: Patricia Southward, Superintendent Ty Ankrom, Jeanine McDowell and Treasurer Shannon Clark.

According to the Ohio School Boards Association, "in more than 700 school districts in the state, nearly 3,500 board members spend countless hours studying issues, reading reports and advocating for schools. When constituent concerns arise, board members are always 'on call' no matter where they are.

For some board members, they also find a way to give their time to other districts.

Richard, Bob and Byron serve on the Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center Board of Education, as does Todd Stevens, vice president of Circleville City Schools Board of Education.

Teays Valley Local Board of Education President William McGowan also serves on the Eastland-Fairfield CTC board.

These board members, as well as those on the Logan Elm and Westfall school board, exemplify the service that Gov. John Kasich cited in his proclamation of January as School Board Recognition Month: "The service ... is critical to ensuring high quality public education for Ohio's schoolchildren. Through partnership with teachers, school administrators, staff and parents, school board members provide vital leadership and support for schools."

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, this month and every month.

Ty Ankrom is the superintendent of the Pickaway County Educational Service Center.

