

Coopersville Area Public Schools - A Look Back...

1998

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School Board Members
 Steve Bennink Jose Gomez
 Rolly Groenink Marla Rasch
 Jane Rolfe John VandenBrink
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * A sheep named Dolly was cloned - the first mammal ever cloned from an adult cell.
 * Comet Hale-Bopp passed close to earth
 * The U.S. spacecraft "Mars Pathfinder" lands on Mars.

Curriculum
 * Funding restraints cause new curriculum implementation to be postponed and phased in over many years.
 * Social Studies curriculum implemented.
 * High School adds Economics and Geography courses.

Finance
 * A projected budget deficit is turned around as the fund balance at the end of the year reaches \$619,762.
 * Student enrollment is 2340.
 * The board begins using a 5-year financial plan to forecast revenues and expenses.

Athletics
 * Conference championships garnered in boys basketball, boys and girls track.
 * Softball team earns Academic All-State.
 * District championships earned in football and volleyball.
 * Regional champions boys basketball, and in both girls and boys track.

Early Childhood
 * Eighteen 4-year-olds are enrolled in the Michigan School Readiness Program.
 * NEO Forum study shows growing need for child care in the Coopersville area.
 * Before-and-After School day-care numbers total 63 students.

Facilities
 * Portable classrooms house student overload at the high school.
 * Fans are routinely turned away at basketball games due to lack of space.
 * Facilities Study Committee reconvened to examine facility needs in the district.

School News
 * Longtime employee and area resident, Ross Conran retires as H.S. principal.
 * Sue Angell retires as principal of East and West Elementary Schools.
 * Computers for student use total 95 - a combination of aging Tandy 100 and new Ultra computers.
 * NEO Forum wins grant to provide community counselor and police officer for the district.

School Board
 * Superintendent Bob Fortin retires Dec. 31, 1997, Sue Angell appointed Interim Superintendent.
 * Kevin O'Neill begins on February 16.
 * Teacher layoffs approved effective Fall of 1997.

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School Board Members
 Steve Bennink Jose Gomez
 Rolly Groenink Dick Holman
 Sue Johnson Tim Postma
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * Mark McGwire hits 70 home runs during the 1998 season.
 * John Glenn returns to space at age 77.
 * U.S. space shuttle Endeavor astronauts connect and outfit two sections of the international space station.

Curriculum
 * A new "Curriculum Coordinating Committee" process assures continuity and quality in all curricular offerings.
 * A board commitment to full funding assures a complete review, update and replacement of all curriculum materials over the next seven years.

Finance
 * The fund balance at the end of the year shows \$1,253,437, enrollment is 2358.
 * Projections show enrollment to decrease for several years before rebounding.
 * Negotiations with teachers result in a 4-year contract ensuring lower class sizes

Athletics
 * Conference championships posted in girls and boys track, and boys basketball.
 * Girls track takes regional championship.
 * Softball and boys tennis teams earn Academic All-State honors.

Early Childhood
 * Preschool enrollment hits 104.
 * Before-and After School enrollment reaches 88.
 * The district's Strategic Plan assures a focus on the developmental needs of all young children.

Facilities
 * Bond issue passed by a 2 to 1 vote provides funding for over \$40 million in repairs and renovations
 * East Elementary and the Junior High School see ground broken for new additions.

School News
 * Administrative appointments include Ron Veldman as high school principal, Bev Walcott and Dave Sipka as elementary principals, and Mark Blount as Community Services director.
 * Administrative assistants replace assistant principals at East, West, and the Junior High School.
 * Love and Logic approach to discipline initiated on campus.
 * On-campus adult education services restored.
 * Summer School is available K-8.

School Board
 * Board formally adopts a "Policy Governance" model that describes how the board will do its work.
 * Bond Issue language approved, setting the stage for the election on 3-9-1999.

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School Board Members
 Steve Bennink Jose Gomez
 Dick Holman Sue Johnson
 Larry Longstreth Tim Postma
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * Michael Jordan retires from basketball for the second time.
 * U.S. Senators vote against impeaching President Clinton.
 * Two students kill twelve classmates in Columbine High School.

Curriculum
 * 6th grade teaming begins.
 * Spanish classes offered in grades K-3.
 * High School adds Intro to Teaching, Web Page Design, Multimedia, Trigonometry, and Marine Science.
 * Language Arts (grades 6-8) and Foreign Language curriculums updated.

Finance
 * The fund balance increases slightly and the year ends with \$1,276,848.
 * Student enrollment is 2278.
 * Grants and donations totaled over \$250,000.

Athletics
 * Conference champs for football, boys basketball, boys and girls track.
 * Football earns district championship.
 * Girls track wins regional championship.
 * Softball and boys tennis teams earn Academic All-State honors.
 * Varsity boys/girls soccer added.

Early Childhood
 * Services expand to include more children, and planning begins for additional options for parents.
 * Project KEEP provides 40 kindergarten students extra time to develop skills.

Facilities
 * All roadways and sidewalks on campus are demolished to make way for new roads, parking lots and walkways.
 * East Elementary addition opens.
 * Construction documents prepared for high school renovations.

School News
 * Administrative appointments include Jan Borowicz as Special Ed Director.
 * All students in grades 1-10 tested in reading and math.
 * A community based committee makes recommendations supporting Character Education.
 * An \$11,000 challenge grant spurs new library at West Elementary.
 * The district's first heart defibrillator is installed at the high school.
 * Over 2000 participate in the district's Community Services programs.

School Board
 * The board approves a new 5-year strategic plan which will be implemented the following school year.
 * The board commits to work with state legislators to protect local control of schools.

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School Board Members
 Steve Bennink Dick Holman
 Sue Johnson Larry Longstreth
 Carol Oltoff Tim Postma
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * Bush wins presidential election.
 * Tiger Woods wins fourth consecutive major championship.
 * A U.S. citizen pays the Russians \$20 million dollars to spend six days on the International Space Station.

Curriculum
 * Young Fives class provides another choice for Kindergarten parents
 * Five high school seniors pilot on-line courses.
 * K-8 Visual Arts, K-5 Language Arts, and Music curriculums updated.
 * Teaming at the Junior High is expanded to include 4 sections of 7th grade.

Finance
 * Year end fund balance is \$1,451,045.
 * Student enrollment is 2274.
 * Increased utility expenses experienced as a result of increased square footage.
 * CAPS contracts with the city to have its main roads plowed.

Athletics
 * Volleyball team is conference champ; boys and girls track teams win regionals.
 * Football and boys basketball teams each head to the state finals.
 * Softball and boys tennis teams earn Academic All-State honors.
 * Girls golf added as a varsity sport.

Early Childhood
 * All-day day-care for children ages 3 to 6 is added at parents' request, including day-care on snow days.
 * Services for children ages 3-5 with special needs available in our district.
 * 71 children are in Summer Day Camp.

Facilities
 * Construction begins on the high school renovations.
 * Tennis team is unable to play or practice at home - takes on the superintendent in a tennis match.
 * The cafeteria at the Junior High opens.

School News
 * Administrative appointments include Rich Salo as elementary principal and Dave Sipka as assistant superintendent.
 * School begins with traffic jams and inconveniences, but everyone pitches in to help make it a successful opening.
 * Shared time teaching at Lamont Christian halted due to philosophical differences.
 * CAPS receives high marks for its school safety plan from the National Institute for School Safety.
 * Endowed Scholarship Fund established.

School Board
 * Bussing plan for Lamont Christian trades bus services for cash.
 * Felons banned from working at CAPS.
 * The board again focuses efforts with legislators on issues of local control and school finance.

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School Board Members
 Dick Holman Sue Johnson
 Larry Longstreth Carol Oltoff
 Tim Postma Lori Rander
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * Terrorists strike the World Trade Center.
 * Nine miners are rescued in Pennsylvania after being trapped for three days.
 * Wildfires rage out of control.
 * Big business deals the economy a death blow with shady accounting practices.

Curriculum
 * Grad requirements raised to include algebra and computer applications.
 * New courses include AP biology, Excel, keyboarding, Adv. Theater, Manufacturing, Plastics Tech II, PowerPoint, & Jazz.
 * Phys. Ed, Technology, Theater, Business, and 9-12 Visual Arts curriculums updated. Career Pathways adopted.

Finance
 * Belt tightening helps the fund balance hit \$2,052,006 and student enrollment climbs to 2301.
 * 65% of grads receive MEAP \$2500 scholarship - one of highest percentages in West Michigan.

Athletics
 * Football team chalks up both conference and district championships.
 * Girls track team runs away with yet another regional championship.
 * Softball and boys tennis teams earn Academic All-State honors.

Early Childhood
 * Day care offered year around.
 * Summer Day Camp enrollment surges as enrollment hits 118 students.
 * West Elementary's new wing houses programs for our early childhood programs.

Facilities
 * New gymnasium and cafeteria at the high school are highlights of extensive renovation, but work continues throughout the year.
 * Computer system eliminates the need for cash for hot lunches.

School News
 * Steve Bennink becomes the district's first full time athletic director, but must resign from the school board.
 * The district's difibrillator is credited with it's first "save", and a second one is placed in the Junior High.
 * West Elementary is designated as an official "Communities In Schools" site.
 * First annual "Art from the Heart of CAPS" highlights student artwork.
 * Band travels to Virginia Beach to claim first place in a band competition.
 * Business Director, Dave Davis, retires.

School Board
 * West Elementary library is dedicated in memory of Marjorie Riermersma, who donated almost \$100,000 to the district.
 * Revised athletic code tightens up loopholes in rules and penalties.
 * Strategic Plan ends statements adopted as board policy.

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 Tim Postma Lori Rander
 Pete VanKempen

Current Events
 * The U.S. prepares for war, while the United Nations conducts inspections.
 * Sniper spree terrorizes the Washington D.C. area.
 * GVSU wins national football championship.

Curriculum
 * New high school courses include AP German, AP Spanish, Computer Assisted Design (CAD), Graphic Design, Printmaking, Advanced Drawing/painting, and Hi-Tech Lab. Computer labs and foreign language labs open.
 * Mathematics and Vocational Education curriculums updated.

Finance
 * Projections show that the fund balance will remain stable at \$2,020,891.
 * Student enrollment increases to 2368.
 * High School enrollment continues to increase as projected 5 years earlier.
 * Tough economic times predicted ahead.

Athletics
 * Strong football tradition boasts championships in conference, district, and regional play.
 * Concession stand completed with generous donations from the Athletic Boosters
 * Junior High cross country team added.

Early Childhood
 * KinderClub program offers enrichment activities to kindergarten students.
 * All-day day-care program now serving 92 students, Winter Camp opens.
 * Infant care pilot program is available to staff and quickly reaches capacity.

Facilities
 * Grand Opening features Coopersville Center for the Performing Arts.
 * Facilities Planning Committee studies current and future facility needs.
 * Technology continues to be phased in even as other renovations are completed.

School News
 * Dave Miller is hired as the district's Auditorium Manager
 * Catherine McClatchy assumes responsibilities as Finance Director.
 * All buildings participate in United Way's "Day of Caring", remembering the lives lost in the Trade Center attack.
 * Paraprofessional positions restored after record increase in student enrollment.
 * The district's "PACER" at-home reading program begins its second year at West.
 * Garth performs a fund raiser for NEO Forum in the Performing Arts Center.

School Board
 * All board policies are updated and made available on-line.
 * Employee Assistance Program approved as a one-year pilot project.
 * Strategic Plan undergoes a mid-point review after two successful years.

Challenges and Opportunities

Coopersville Area Public Schools
January 20, 2003

It is obvious that our school district has made great progress in the past six years. Those years have not been without considerable challenges, but with our community working toward a common goal, we have had a great measure of success. The same will hold true in the upcoming year. We are facing many challenges - the most significant one being the stagnant economic picture which will adversely affect school funding. However, we have been prudent with our money over the past years, so that we now are positioned to weather the storm, albeit with some belt tightening and with seeking new sources of revenue.

We may have to ask our community for help again financially, but it is too soon to make that prediction. We have an excellent school system that can boast not only of high academic standards, but also high ethical standards that reflect the values of our community. We are blessed that the Coopersville community supports our schools and demands nothing but the best for its children. Our pledge is to honor their support by working together to help each child grow and learn, reach new heights, and leave our school as mature young adults who will make positive contributions to the global community.

Challenges

- Reductions in state funding
- Increases in expenses not controlled by the school district such as health care, state retirement programs, and utility costs
- Burdensome requirements from the federal government as a result of the new "No Child Left Behind" legislation
- Increasing demands from the state for electronic data reports about students, staff, and finances
- Burdens on our facilities as a result of increasing enrollment and lower class sizes - lack of classroom space
- Loss of experienced teachers due to retirements
- New technology that may outpace our staff's ability to stay current
- Labor contracts set to expire with almost all of our employees in 2003

Opportunities

- The district has positioned itself to weather one or two years of stagnant state aid, but will still have to find ways to cut expenses.
- Enrollment increases may help us offset reductions in state aid.
- Our new computer and network systems will help reduce the time it takes to meet the new state data reporting demands.
- New facilities, high academic standards, and great working conditions allow us to attract hundreds of applications for each new teacher opening.
- New technology affords our students incredible opportunities to increase their analytical skills and academic achievement.
- The district's Strategic Plan focuses our efforts on academics, goal setting, and social responsibilities.
- Creative approaches to labor negotiations result in fair, yet affordable, settlements.

Dear Friends,

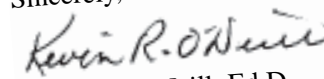
In each of the past five years, I have reported on the health of the district for the previous year. The district is now approaching completion of our facility improvements. Enrollment is on the upswing, and our financial condition is excellent. However, there are storm clouds on the horizon. To help keep things in perspective, this report offers a look back over multiple years.

As you scan the inside pages, you will see some highlights of the last six years. It is important to note that these things have been accomplished in spite of the many obstacles that were often found blocking our path. We also were able to harness the collective strength of our community by working together to solve problems.

Some of the challenges that the district faces during the next two years are listed on the back page of this report. However, you will also notice that there are many opportunities as well. Our past experience tells us that, with your continued support, the challenges will be successfully addressed, and Coopersville Area Public Schools will continue to move forward.

I urge you to help us maintain the focus on our most important resource - our children. Our vision of the future is reflected in each improvement and in each step we take. We are ready for the challenge, and I hope that you will help us ensure the success of future generations. Our students are depending on you.

Sincerely,

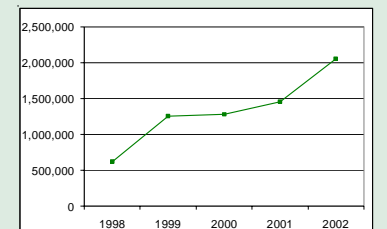

Kevin R. O'Neill, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Coopersville Area Public Schools
Kevin R. O'Neill, Ed.D., Superintendent
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Coopersville, Michigan 49404
(616) 997-3200

Fast Facts

- ✓ Construction made possible by the 1999 bond will be completed this year.
- ✓ Almost 400 children are served in our preschool and day-care programs.
- ✓ The district's fund balance as of June 30, 2002 is \$2,052,006.
- ✓ Enrollment increases this year are almost 3% over last year after declining or remaining flat the previous four years.
- ✓ The budget for text books and curriculum materials is more than double that of five years ago.
- ✓ Class sizes are some of the lowest in a three county area.
- ✓ Over 795 computers on campus highlight our technology improvements.

Fund Balance



Enrollment

