

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Nov. 6, 2015

A desire to be a member of Ohio State University's famed marching band may have unwittingly started Darrell Cottrill's education career.



Darrell, who played bass drum, was selected for the band and pursued a bachelor's degree in education and, later, a master's in education.

He's spent his adult life in a variety of educational posts as a teacher, principal and board member.

Darrell, of Chillicothe, was recently recognized by the Ohio School Boards Association for his 30 years of service.

A member of Pickaway-Ross' Board of Education since 1994, he started his board service in 1978 with a seat on the Union-Scioto Board of Education.

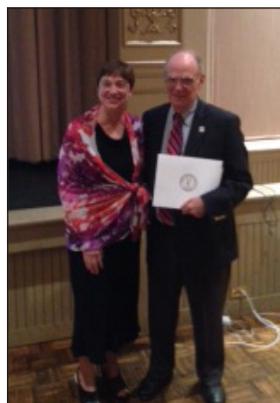
"The first time, nobody ran against me," he said. "It's easy to get elected that way."

He's also served on the Ross-Pike Educational Service District Governing Board since 1992.

Darrell spent nearly 30 years as an educator for Huntington Local Schools, as a music teacher, band director and elementary school principal.

## PRJVSD Board of Education Years of Service

Dr. Marilyn J. Carnes, Ross County, 28 years  
Byron Lloyd, Ross County, 21 years  
Daniel Bradhurst, Circleville City Schools, 13 years  
Richard Everman, Pickaway County, 11 years  
Jeff Hartmus, Chillicothe City Schools, 11 years  
Byron Welch, Pickaway County, 11 years  
Steve Mullins, Chillicothe City Schools, 9 years  
Randy Drewyor, Chillicothe City Schools, 7 years  
Todd Stevens, Circleville City Schools, 7 years  
Bob Bower, Pickaway County, 5 years



Darrell Cottrill accepts his award from Ohio School Boards Association representative Kim Miller-Smith. Darrell was recognized for his 30 years of board service.

And as a board member for Pickaway-Ross for more than 20 years, he brings the local flavor of an experienced school administrator to our board.

He is a member who understands our past and has a good vision for what our future should entail.

He has always been a supporter of what career-tech education brings to the community and understands the important role of teachers in the process.

In fact, Darrell said, his philosophy as a board member is to always do what is best for students.

"The board doesn't actually hire anyone except the superintendent and the treasurer," Darrell said. "But we approve hiring all employees based on recommendations from the superintendent and other administrators.

"So it's crucial that we pick good people who make good recommendations," he said.

"If you have the right people, you trust that they'll do what's right for the students."

---

*Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at [dennis.franks@pickawayross.com](mailto:dennis.franks@pickawayross.com).*