

My Turn

By Dennis Franks

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Twice a year, in the fall and spring, the principals of our 10 home high schools and corresponding middle schools are invited out to Pickaway-Ross.



While the gathering includes lunch and conversation, the purpose of the meetings is communication on a larger scale.

It is at these meetings, started more than 10 years ago by Steve Winegardner, director of Secondary Education, that we get a chance to convey to the leaders of our home schools what we're doing at Pickaway-Ross and learn how we can improve working together.



"We have common issues," Steve said. "So it makes sense to solve common problems together. Plus, it helps improve communication between us and the home schools."

Every few years, a tour is included to show off Pickaway-Ross' building and labs.

Dana Anderson, career technical and special services supervisor, updated principals on student attendance and discipline.

"They may not know anything about us," Steve said about new school administrators before Tuesday's meeting.

Generally, the agenda includes reports from Pickaway-Ross departments, such as Adult Education, Guidance, Off-Campus

Programs, Public Relations and Student Services.

At Tuesday's meeting, Debbie Wipert spoke about Adult Education's Game Plan program; Amy Poorman talked about the tutoring center that been established in the library and instructor Jada Truex gave a presentation on the new Sports Medicine Technology Program, offered to Pickaway County students at our Mound Street location.

In fact, principals were encouraged to partner with Pickaway-Ross further in suggesting ideas for additional workforce-development programs that can be added as satellite programs.

"Now's the time to give us ideas," Steve said, as they must be presented to the state for approval by March 1.

A benefit of creating off-site programs, Steve said, is that it allows for all of the schools to better serve students and illustrates to the communities the partnerships that have been created.

Overall, Steve said about the meetings and their topics, "we want to keep the community involved in what we do."

