

March 1, 2019

Sheila Baltzell-Linn
District Library Media Specialist
132 Sandy Beach Way, POB 323
Celina, OH 45822

Celina City Schools Board of Education
Dr. Ken Schmiesing, Superintendent
585 E. Livingston Street
Celina, OH 45822

Dear Board Members and Dr. Schmiesing,

I have had the best possible career for 31.08 years ~ all at Celina City Schools ~ working under the guidance of six superintendents.

Reading and research have always been my dual passions – a perfect fit. From teaching English, Journalism and Library Research Skills for 1-1/2 years to moving into the District Library Media Specialist position for 30 years, I can truly say I worked for a district that was always ahead of the pack.

Some of you are too young to remember when computers were in their infancy at CCS, but that is where I entered the scene in 1988.

Over the course, I directed the automation of all of our libraries starting with CHS in 1990, the first in Mercer County and one of the first in the State. Then, the CHS Media Center got the first Macintosh computers in the district, 5 of them and a printer, for staff and student use. I was privileged to do the training. In 1993, CCS forged an alliance with Wright State University in Dayton/Lake Campus and became the first district to have access to the Internet through a dial-up connection. I learned "machine language" to do research because the World Wide Web did not exist. Using my skills, I taught research skills to staff, students and also at Wright State for many years. I learned HTML language and created our first website in 1992, and I continue working on it to this day.

During our building construction in 1997-1999, and during later re-organizational moves, my team of dedicated library aides, volunteers (adults and students) and I sorted, boxed, moved, re-barcode, and realigned our library book collections 9 times. During the construction, I was on the tech team which selected the Dukane Media Retrieval System, the first in our county and precursor to the SmartBoards. Our new PC computer labs in 1999 set us up for the training of staff and students to enter the Computer Age of Education. I even trained community members in the evenings. Everyone wanted to learn the research capabilities of the Internet. To this day, I team-teach research skills to our students in classrooms and in the media center. The list could go on

Please accept these words as my appreciation for allowing me to grow in my career, and please accept my retirement at the end of this 2018-2019 School Year. I leave this district library collection of 44,441 copies, an inventory worth \$886,394 and circulation of 68,751 better than when I arrived, and I protected these curricular assets to the best of my media specialist's ability. I hope you will continue to support and preserve our five school libraries as you have in the past.

The **administration, staff** and **students** of Celina Schools, always have been and are an awesome team. I will miss you all.

Sincerely,
Sheila M. Baltzell-Linn

