



# Marion City Schools

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## Marion City Schools Board of Education Members to be Honored at Final Board Meeting

(Marion, OH) Today marks the final board of education meeting for Gary Iams and Mike McCreary, who chose not to run for re-election this year. Iams and McCreary have a combined 89 years of service to this district both working for Marion City Schools and the board of education.

Iams began teaching in the district as the director of the Harding Orchestra, a position he held for twenty years. He conducted that award winning ensemble on numerous concert tours in the U.S. and Canada. In 1995, under his lead, the Harding Orchestra became the first school music group to perform for Carnival Cruise Lines aboard the M/S Fantasy on tour in the Bahamas. For



(l to r) Mr. Mike McCreary, Mr. Gary Iams, Mrs. Leslie Schneider, Mr. Ted McKinniss and Mrs. Kelly Mackay

twelve years Mr. Iams also served as district-wide Coordinator of Music Education, administering a highly respected, comprehensive K-12 music program with a staff of eighteen professional music educators. He has served the community as a member of the school board since 2006.

“I am proud of the conservative fiscal approach we have taken during my 16-year tenure as a board member,” said Iams. “During that time, we’ve seen the district move from a year with nearly no carryover whatsoever in the budget, to the current 5-year forecast that we just approved showing that the district is on extremely solid financial footing. In part this has been possible because of the willingness of our community to

renew our emergency levy three times under my watch. I so admire the skill, tenacity and compassion of our teachers and support staff. They are doing an amazing job under increasingly difficult conditions. For that, I am very grateful.”

McCreary started out as a phys ed teacher in the elementary schools then moved up to middle and high school teaching science and health for a number of years. He then moved into administration, where he was the assistant principal at both the middle and high school levels before becoming the Harding High School principal for the last 10 years of his career prior to retirement. During his three and a half decades at Marion City, McCreary also coached football, wrestling and track at the high school level. He has served on the Marion city school board for eight years.

“I always wanted to teach, that was always the plan,” said McCreary. “After I retired I still wanted to be involved with the schools and that’s why I joined the board. I enjoy serving the community and I still plan to be around to help the district with anything I can.”

After winning the election for the two open seats in November, Rocky Ratliff and Scott Weibling will begin their terms on the board of education in January.

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### **About Marion City Schools**

At Marion City Schools, we want to inspire a community of achievement. We offer innovative experiences, educational options and learning programs not available in surrounding school districts. We search for ways to prepare students for not only academic success but success in college and careers as well. Our Four Pillars follow four distinct themes including Leadership, Learning, Literacy and Legacy. We want our students to leave high school with not only their diploma, but also acceptance into a two or four-year college, an adult training program, the military, or a high-paying, in-demand job.