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For Immediate Release

### FH Board and Superintendent Agree to Two Year Consulting Contract

Stewart, Ohio: At a special board meeting the Federal Hocking District and Superintendent George Wood came to an agreement to continue his tenure in the district. The board will move forward to find a full-time superintendent this spring, Wood currently serves in a part-time basis. However, Wood will continue on as a consultant, retiring from the superintendent's position this summer.

Earlier the Board had announced that Wood would retire in June of 2020. "After talking with the Board and reviewing overall workings of the district, it is clear it is in the best interests of the district to move to a fulltime superintendent," Wood said. "At this time, for personal and health reasons I have chosen not to fulfill a fulltime position and have decided to retire from the superintendent's position at the end of this school year."

"We did not want to lose Dr. Wood's expertise and passion for this district," noted Board President Dan Torrence. "So we feel we have the best of both worlds, we get to keep him working in the district while we also move to a full time superintendent. We think his work next year with the new superintendent will make for a smooth transition."

At the February school board meeting the district had non-renewed Wood's contract. According to Torrence, that was done in order to provide the board with time to meet and come up with the consulting plan while still meeting the legal requirements of negotiating superintendent contracts by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

The consulting contract with Wood will be for a two-year period, he will be paid on a daily basis and insurance coverage will be provided. Details of the consulting contract are still being worked out and will be voted on at the March board meeting, but it is expected Wood will work at least five days a month in the first year and three to five in the second.

Wood has worked for twenty-six years in the district, starting his tenure as principal of Federal Hocking High School before moving on to the superintendent's office. During his tenure the high school has received numerous awards including an Ohio's Best Award, First

Amendment School designation, and Mentor School for the Coalition of Essential Schools. While he has been superintendent the district has initiated a summer food program, an early childhood outreach program, health clinic, among other programs. The district is currently beginning the installation of a solar energy program.

“I am very proud of all that we have done over the past nearly three decades. Of course, none of this would have been possible without a great staff and supportive school board and community. While I will miss the day to day leadership of the district, being able to continue here in this capacity and focus on leadership training and special initiatives will be a real treat.”

Board member Sara Brumfield noted that, “I hate to see him go, but he will continue to work with the district and the staff we have here will be able to carry on the great programs that Federal Hocking is known for.”