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## Eifert's school board work ends

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Sixteen years is enough time for a child to go from being dropped off at first grade to being picked up after college graduation. Sixteen years also seemed like enough time to Charles Eifert to spend on the Campbell County School Board. He stepped down at the end of the last school term.

"He was very honest and straightforward," said Anthony Strong, superintendent of Campbell County Schools. "You never had to wonder where he was coming from. If you asked a question, you got an answer - maybe not what you wanted to hear, but you did not have to ever wonder where he stood on an issue."

Strong worked with Eifert when he was principal of Campbell County High School for three years and the 2½ years he served as superintendent.

"He was very accessible and easy to talk with in both of my positions with the district," Strong said.

Eifert, a 1965 Newport Catholic alumnus, was serving his seventh year on the Highland Heights City Council in 1990. He had three sons - Rob, Michael and Matt - in the public schools.

"There was a problem with the board getting along then," said Eifert, who still lives in Highland Heights. "I went to a board meeting with my wife (Melody) and made up my mind to run for the board."

Those 16 years were demanding.

"The hardest thing we did was hire three superintendents," said Eifert. "It's a little touchy because you get a lot of resumes and you go through them. It's a little tough sometimes."

Strong notes the amount of construction projects in the county over those years.

"We have built a new high school, a new elementary, renovated the old high school into a new middle school, renovated two older middle schools into elementary schools, and are nearing the completion of a second new elementary," he said. "I would say that every building in the district has had some type of improvement in his 16 years."

Those years gave Eifert a wealth of knowledge and wisdom to pass along to his successors.

"Parents should become more involved at all levels - elementary, middle and high school," said Eifert. "Do not be afraid of visiting the schools when you think there is a problem. Students should take advantage of all that is offered at Campbell County."

However, for future board members he said, "My advice would be to come into this position with an open mind. It is a lot of common sense. Do not come in with an agenda that is only yours."

Eifert, who is the sales manager for truck equipment specialist River City Body, said he doesn't have any plans to run for office.

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