

# Teaching a natural move for guidance counselor

Bostick averages over a hundred family visits a years

**BY JOHN HAUER**

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PIQUA — A quick visit to Primary/Intermediate schools guidance counselor Clint Bostick, and any one will understand why new buildings were needed for these Piqua City Schools structures.

In his 'office' at Favorite Hill Primary, Bostick sits at his desk in a former boiler room. Next to him on the wall is a control panel of a dozen dials and gauges now hooked up to nothing. Behind him is a large framework that contains the computer servers for Favorite Hill. A constant hum fills the room. "At least the room is air conditioned," he said. "It has to be because of the electronics." Beside the servers is another unit on the wall with 50 wires and as many blinking lights that is the control center for the school's phone system. Behind him are bookshelves which are the

book storage for the building.

The middle of the cramped 'office' is the parking spot for the mobile cart which contains more than two dozen iPads. And oh yes, don't bump into the custodian's tool chest and cabinet just outside the door. "It's home," Bostick said.

Bostick was born and raised in Dayton, graduating from Meadowdale High School in 1971. He played football for the Lions and swam for the Northwest Y. Education was in his background. His father Clint was the assistant principal, and later principal, at Meadowdale. His mother Bea was an English teacher at the school. "I had been around education all my life, so it was natural to want to become a teacher," he said.

He went to Wright State University and majored in history education with a minor in political

class act



MIKE ULLERY/STAFF PHOTO

Clint Botick chats with a visitor while waiting on the arrival of a student at Bennett Intermediate School recently.

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science. He earned his bachelor's degree in 1977. Later, he received a master's degree in school counseling in 1983. During his college years, Bostick worked part-time at Elder-Beerman and coached swimming at areas Y's. "I started coaching swimming when I was 18," he said. "I coached at the Northwest Y, the Miami County Y, Key Swim Cub, and the Kauffman Swim Club."

After WSU, he took his first education job at Northmont Junior High as an 8th grade American History teacher. He also coached junior high football, track, and wrestling. In 1991, he became an elementary school guidance counselor for Eaton City Schools. This lasted for two years; then, he moved to Cleveland and was a high school counselor at Rocky River for two years.

In 1995, Bostick moved to Piqua and started the elementary guidance program for Piqua City Schools. "I got to be the pioneer," he said. "It was an exciting time and very rewarding to begin things here." He served South Street and Favorite Hill Schools. Currently, Bostick spends two days at Bennett, two days at Favorite Hill, and one day at Nicklin Learning Center.

Bostick does not spend much time in any of his offices. He visits classrooms, does group counseling, and handles any crisis that happens at the three schools. "I do a lot of home visits, too," he said.

"I average over a hundred family visits a year. I know many of the parents as well as I know their kids."

His duties include trying to provide social work assistance to students and families, as well as being a school counselor. "We had a county social worker assigned to our schools for about ten years, but that funding ended, so I have tried to take on those responsibilities and contacts," he said. "I connect families with agencies and services who can assist with whatever is needed."

Even though, Piqua City Schools will build new primary and intermediate buildings in a couple years, Bostick will not be around to reap the benefits. "It is time for me to retire at the end of the school year," he said. "I will miss the kids, the parents and my co-workers, but I'm looking forward to the next chapter in my life." He is not sure what that chapter will include. "I'm going to see where things take me."

Away from his schools, Bostick still enjoys swimming. He and his wife Joyce, a 4th grade math teacher at Wilder, have been married 19 years. There are five sons in the combined families. Mike, a veteran of two tours of duty in Iraq, lives in Arkansas. Billy works for and attends Miami University. Doug and David work and attend college in California. And, John is a junior at Piqua High School, playing soccer and singing in the Show Choir.