

Remembering Ridley Banks

Perhaps you attended an athletic contest, graduation, a performing arts presentation, a band concert, or an academic ceremony.....if it involved Ferndale Area School District students, Ridley Banks was there, taking pictures. He rarely missed an event and always tracked you down to give you a copy (or 2 or 3) of a picture he snapped that captured you in it. Ridley served the district as a member of the Ferndale Area School Board for the past 12 years, serving as School Board President for the last 10 years. He was always early and prepared, sporting a neatly ironed shirt and tie, toting his PSBA soft-sided briefcase, and of course, his pocket calendar—in which he diligently recorded all upcoming FASD student events. He took his commitment to education very seriously, dutifully preparing for board meetings and having all possible supporting information tucked in his briefcase, just in case he needed it. Mr. Banks served children beyond our own district boundaries as well. He was on the Joint Operating Committee of the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center (serving 7 districts), as well as a member of the Appalachia Intermediate Unit 8 Board of Directors (serving 35 districts). He was our PSBA (PA School Boards Association) liaison and a voting delegate, never missing the October Legislative Leadership Conference to cast his vote on our behalf.

We miss him dearly. Every time there is a student event, we will be reminded of his absence and our hearts will be saddened again. But then we will smile on the inside, remembering his contagious laugh and his always upbeat spirit and boundless energy. What a great man and a great example for all.

We love you, Ridley!

The Ferndale Area School District Community

[Ridley Banks](#)