

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting
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I have two committee updates tonight.

First, the Treasurer's Advisory Committee met to initiate discussion on both the operating levy and the need for additional funding for capital improvements. In addition, the TAC discussed the use of contingency dollars as specified in tonight's appropriation transfers.

The discussion regarding the operating levy was simply a presentation of a mathematical representation of the requirement to balance the current five year forecast in FY16. I mention this because of our ongoing discussions about whether the forecast is a meaningful document. Clearly, the document is being used to propose an amount of additional revenue that Worthington taxpayers will have to approve so in at least that one regard, the document is meaningful. Clearly, any levy discussion is going to be more of a "what kind" rather than an "if" or a "when".

The TAC also got a first look at the capital budget request. Here, the decision points will be how much of the request represents "wants" rather than "needs", whether we want to be bound by the current 3.8 mills that the taxpayer is already contributing annually for capital improvement, whether the district and the Worthington taxpayer want to take advantage of historically low interest rates and how best to get to a planned replacement cycle for technology, transportation and facilities. We also have some philosophical discussions in front of us. For example, do we fund technology infrastructure or do we fund end user computing and if the former, do we have a safety net in place for students who can't afford to bring their own technology to the table.

My hope is that there will be plenty of time for constituent input prior to the filing deadline in July.

My second update concerns "Race to the Top" where the RttT committee met last week to discuss, in part, compliance with the teacher evaluation mandate in HB153 and the "Scope of Work" agreed to in our Race to the Top application. Unfortunately, it appears that the framework produced by ODE raises more questions than answers. Board members will recall that the mandate requires that 50% of a teachers evaluation consists of student growth measures, said growth measures either being value-add scores on standardized tests or other such metrics defined either by us or by ODE but some might say that if each district defines the metric, how do you get consistency between districts. The other question is – what about the other 50%. ODE's framework is looking at announced classroom observations, but these are both time consuming and could also be misleading in that is it really possible to get the measure of an employee from observing

one or two class periods throughout the year. Worthington is proceeding in the only way that makes any sense, which is to utilize input from stakeholders and participate in pilot programs to make sure that ODE is aware of the reality endemic in the state mandate and their own framework. I continue to be optimistic that after what will clearly be a difficult task in defining the details, what will emerge will be a fair, consistent and balanced approach to teacher evaluations both in Worthington and statewide.

The other interesting factoid from the meeting is the tremendous amount of work that will be expended adapting to the common core standards. These two initiatives, Common Core and Teacher/Principal evaluations are going to consume much staff time over the next few years.

Finally, once again, the Cardinals of Thomas Worthington prevailed over the Wolves, this time in basketball by a score of 43-38 in the combination basketball game and silent auction fundraiser for the "One Leg at a Time" anti-bullying initiative. It appears that being a Wolves fan in the 2011-2012 school year can get pretty expensive for sports-enthusiast board members, but I'm sure the One Leg at a Time team will put President Best's latest \$25 contribution to good use.