

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting
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Tonight, I have but one legislative update. Board Members might remember that we passed a resolution at our last meeting in opposition to the component of HB191 that mandated that school start after Labor Day and end before Memorial Day. Two days after our resolution, a substitute bill was introduced. The Memorial Day provision was eliminated and the Labor Day provision has been modified to make it optional. If we want to start school before Labor Day, we need to hold a public hearing and pass a resolution to that effect and then apply for a waiver from ODE where ODE has no discretion to deny the waiver. It wasn't clear when we would need to hold the public hearing since we define our calendars 3 years in advance, but this is mere annoyance. It turns out that HB191 had two components. The second component of HB191 eliminates calamity days, eliminates the minimum school year requirement and substitutes what would be for us a much shorter, minimum hours requirement. Indeed, HB191 would permit us to shave up to 5 weeks off the school year. I would hope that no Worthington Board of Education would ever choose to do so, however, we do know that given similar flexibility, 98% of all school districts in Michigan did shorten their school year, some by over 30 days, within 7 years of their days to hours conversion so while I cherish the principle of local control as much as the next guy, I've been quite active in working to defeat this proposal. In a nutshell and by the sponsor's own admission, the legislation seeks to put the needs of Ohio's tourism industry ahead of education and that wasn't something I could stay silent about and I will add parenthetically that the editorial pages of both the Columbus Dispatch and the Cleveland Plain Dealer agree.

Last week I attended the "State of the State" address in Steubenville which frankly was a long way to go for not a lot of substance. It is extremely unlikely that the promised revision to the state's school funding formula will be enacted in time for the 2012-2013 school year or to have a meaningful impact on the mathematical calculation that goes into our levy amount. As we look to legislative advocacy on this issue, there are three things, in my opinion, we need to be doing in parallel. First, we need to advocate that the TPP reimbursement formula is no worse than the original phase out schedule which currently, it is not. Current law points to a permanent reimbursement at FY13 levels but no one inside or outside of government thinks that is a likely scenario. Second, the state gives us next to nothing because it thinks we are a rich school district where "rich" is defined completely by property valuation. We need to change the definition of "rich" to include an income component and third, we need to settle once and for all this issue of whether the state can use local taxpayer dollars in any form and for any reason. While HB136 appears dead, special education vouchers, autism scholarships and the like continue to drain local property tax dollars and while this may represent good public policy, it is not why voters approved those dollars in the first place. In addition, there are rumblings that the state is going to try and eliminate the Homestead Rollback, perhaps for high income

taxpayers, which is fine except again, when voters approved these levys, they did so assuming the Rollback was in place. To eliminate it after the fact is tantamount to increasing school taxes by between 10 and 12.5% .

Following the State of the State, a much more interesting event took place at COSI where Dr. Tucker joined a panel of experts to discuss education issues in Franklin County. The panel discussion was preceded by a video of effective teaching techniques starring Tim Dove, Beth Cullinan and Robert Estes at Phoenix. WOSU recorded the event and it will be televised a few times in the upcoming weeks and it available on Youtube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/WOSUColumbus#p/u/10/RNS8Y9TJy0s>

Finally, I just wanted to give a public shout out to the Ed Foundation. What an event on January 28. Superlatives fail, but the entire event planning group deserves some special recognition and I, for one, am looking forward to finding out what innovative practices are doing to be funded with all that money....