

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting –
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For tonight's first update, I thought I'd share some factoids from this year's District Profile Report, affectionately known as the CUPP report. This was for FY14 ending June 30.

Our cost per pupil weighs in at \$13,132/student which is the 6th highest in the county and the 49th highest in the State out of 614 districts. What's remarkable about the number is that it is actually lower than the FY11 number of \$13,305, so our cost per pupil has actually gone down since 2011. With over a third of Franklin County Districts in the top 10% statewide in terms of costs, it is obvious that Franklin County is a very expensive place to be in the education business. Less clear is why exactly that is the case.

In terms of district funding as a percentage of income tax paid, Worthington is receiving 15 cents on the dollar. In other words, for every dollar that our district pays in state income tax, 15 cents gets redistributed back to us in the form of district funding. This is why I continue to believe it is counterproductive to ask the state to forego tax cuts in favor of additional education funding – our residents lose the tax cut and don't receive much of the incremental revenue. Better to keep the tax cut and be better able to afford local tax issues.

Unfortunately, that's not likely to change any time soon. There's been lots of talk about urging the state to use income rather than property wealth to determine state aid. In terms of District Average Income, Worthington ranks at 56th in the State although only 7th in the County next to New Albany, Bexley, Upper Arlington, Dublin, Grandview Heights and Gahanna, in that order. We're 39th in the state if you look at median income. Our assessed valuation per pupil, on the other hand, ranks us at #92.

In terms of state revenue received per pupil, Worthington is the 126th lowest in the state at \$3418, which is higher than I thought it might be. That means that 125 districts receive even less money from the state per pupil than we do.

Tonight's second update concerns the Treasurer's Advisory Committee meeting held last week where the treasurer discussed the May 2015 forecast update in some detail. Here are some of the takeaways from that discussion.

1) I think there was some general consensus that the assumptions in the forecast have been tightened so they will no longer represent the worst possible scenario in every instance.

- 2) As a result of the tightening, there is close to a 9 million dollar cumulative increase to the good during the period envisioned by the forecast.
- 3) Despite an unencumbered balance of around 47 million dollars at the end of 2019, there was sentiment that we should still run a levy in 2017 to keep the millage reasonable.
- 4) There was general amazement at the positive benefits accruing to the district as a result of the Treasurer's commitment to implement self-funded health care.

I might have one or two comments about this next month at forecast approval time.

Tonight's third update is a legislative one. Tomorrow is House Budget day in Columbus. Word has it that once again, no district, including ours, will see a net reduction in state funding but I've also been cautioned that those who know aren't talking and those that are talking don't know. Word also has it that there is an effort through the budget to defund PARCC. We'll know in the next 24 hours. In the meantime, the endless stream of education legislation continues unabated. Some highlights:

House Bill 74 touches many aspects of current education law. It would require the State Board of Education to adapt new academic content standards in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies by June of 2016, it would require the state to solicit RFP's for tests for the new academic content standards and it would prohibit multi-state consortia from applying. In addition, it would place limits on the length of standardized tests, require ODE to itemize which assessments can be used for which purposes and finally, modify the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System to define what assessments satisfy the requirements for student academic growth measurement. House Bill 74 will receive its 5th hearing this week.

House Bill 138 would remove the requirement to do any PARCC related end-of-course exams for this year and would base the 2014-2015 State Report Card solely on the Performance Based Assessments.

Under House bill 133, students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2016 would be required as a condition of graduation to be trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator as prescribed by section 3313.6021 of the Revised Code. However, if a student is excused from instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation under section 3313.60 of the Revised Code, the student shall not be required to have such training. In fact, the legislation states that state foundation funding can be withheld if a local school district decides not to do this.

Finally, House Bill 146 would require handwriting instruction in kindergarten through fifth grade to ensure that students develop the ability to print letters and words legibly by third grade and to create readable documents using legible cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. I'm not exactly sure how you can legislate legible cursive handwriting, but

the bipartisan legislation has a dozen cosponsors that evidently believe that if they mandate it, kids will learn how to do it.

In the meantime, Senator Lehner's panel continues their work and it's my hope that it's this group, and not a bunch of House members through House Bill 74, who ultimately figure out how to fix the state's assessment system.