

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting –  
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Tonight, we'll start with a legislative update. Late last year, the Alliance for a High Quality Education predicted that it would be a slow legislative session in the 2012 election year vis-à-vis education initiatives here in Ohio. They were wrong. I think most of us are familiar with the headline components of the educational initiatives in the Mid-Year Budget such as the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading guarantee, the A-F report card and so forth. Both the Senate and the House will be taking public testimony over the next 2 weeks on these important issues with the outcome yet to be determined.

A quick update on some old legislative business. As some might remember, the John Peterson special education scholarship program was embedded in HB153 last year leading some to speculate that special education students would be deserting public schools in droves, taking state and local tax dollars with them. The deadline for applying for a special education scholarship was April 15 and the Dispatch ran a story this morning saying that some were from Worthington. Doing some digging, it turns out that the number was 11 with losses ranging from \$7,146 dollars for a category one disability to \$20,000 for a category 6. That number represents about 1% of our special education population. The moral of the story is that so far, when given a choice, the vast majority of Worthington families with children on IEP's will choose a Worthington School District public education.

I did get to a few events over the last fortnight. The recognition ceremony for 6<sup>th</sup> grade EPP students was held a week ago at Worthington Kilbourne and I'll reiterate my joy at being part of a district that rewards academic achievement as well as athletic achievement. Over 100 sixth graders were so recognized and the keynote speaker, Dr. Tucker, encouraged these kids to continue taking advanced math classes through their junior high and high school careers. I also wanted to mention the Worthington Education Association blood drive that was held on Wednesday. Brian Scott does yeoman's work at keeping this going year after year and I think it's great that the WEA sponsors such events. Finally, I have to comment on the Phoenix Holocaust remembrance that was held on Thursday night. What a special event. I arrived at 6:30 and saw that the Phoenix students met community members at the door and described the various exhibits that were available in the library. Promptly at 7, a program of musical selections and dramatic readings began, but what struck me was that the program was completely run by students – if adults were orchestrating things behind the scenes, it wasn't obvious. The kids did such a great job at personalizing the Holocaust. The realization that there is no way to get your head around 6 million individual souls dying is a very adult concept and the students chose to remember the event the only way that it can be remembered – one life at a time. It was a very moving event for the entire community and the entire Phoenix community should be very proud of what they did.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Candy Brooks on her continuing assignment covering all things Worthington for the merged publication “This Week Worthington News” and I wish her well as Worthington and Central Ohio become a single-community-newspaper town.