

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting

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We have some committee updates today.

First, the Race to the Top Evaluation committee continued its work last week. We spent some time reviewing the feedback from the first three meetings with teachers at the high school level. Based partially on that feedback, a decision was made to reduce the percentage of the overall evaluation that results from MAP testing from 20% to 10%.

Some of the discussions are absolutely surreal. For example, since MAP testing might not occur until after the deadline for the evaluation, ODE advises using last years MAP data as the measure for student growth, combined with this year's teacher performance component to form the overall evaluation. Hypothetically, let's say that a teacher reviewed their MAP data and worked really, really hard over the summer to make changes in their instructional strategies, culminating in a much better result in the next school year. That year's evaluation, or 50% thereof, will reflect the previous year's MAP testing, thus providing a distorted view of the overall rating for the teacher. Putting this another way, let's say that New York Jets coach Rex Ryan wins the Super Bowl this year after coming off one of the most dismal performances in Jets history. Under OTES, Coach Ryan would get a "Accomplished" for the performance level and at best, a "Developing" overall because this year's results wouldn't count.

Moving on, the Board received an update directly from Keith vis-à-vis the technology committee so I'll skip that, but the committee did have the beginnings of a discussion about the benefits and pitfalls of "Bring Your Own Device". In Worthington, this board was one of the first to abolish the all too common practice of requiring kids to power down their technology when they entered one of our buildings. Now, the question of the day becomes – should we start moving in the direction where we take advantage of the fact that students are already bringing handheld Internet devices to school.

There is, as with so many other things in education, bountiful research on either side of the discussion and the technology committee, or a subset thereof, will be attempting to sort through it. With quality tablet computers in the \$200 range and dropping in price every few months, the use of such devices will be ubiquitous, just like the use of cellphones exploded in the last decade. Clearly, there is a need for the traditional laptop cart and computer lab, but as we move towards a day when every student has internet access at their desk all the time, how will teaching and learning change and how will school adopt to the new paradigm.