

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting – Tucker Impact
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One of the anomalies in the world of public education is that in a profession where many individuals choose to hold the same job for decades, the average tenure of a Superintendent in Ohio is around 5 years, and so it is once again in Worthington.

Dr. Thomas Tucker has made an impact here. He was hired in part to help us transition through some pretty muddy waters. Locally, our demographic has changed and with Thomas' leadership, our instructional practices have changed to meet these new challenges. At the state level, Dr. Tucker has led us through the transition to a curriculum based on Common Core and we were one of the few school districts in the state that were technologically and procedurally ready to deal with the PARCC assessments. So far as I know, Dr. Tucker is still the only Superintendent in Ohio to meet with the local Tea Party group to discuss Common Core. Despite unprecedented parent angst over testing, our district, in poll after poll and survey after survey has a stratospherically high approval rating and the most common response when asked about setting goals was something along the lines of "do what you're doing, just more of it".

In many ways, some visible and some not-so-visible, Thomas' impact will be felt for a long time. Our district got serious about bullying and dedicated resources and programming around that issue. Our district got serious about technology and this has changed the landscape of instructional practice here. The staff turnover during Dr. Tucker's tenure, brought about by Ohio's pension reform, was handled seamlessly.

Now, I know that no Superintendent is going to take credit for all this goodness, but he was the guy in charge at the time and that says something. Dr. Tucker, I have but one piece of advice as you depart and ironically, it's the same advice that many of our graduates received a few weeks ago – go take your talents, your passion and your energy and go out and change the world.