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# NHS

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ton goodbye, however, three parents objected to an administrative decision to discontinue the National Honor Society at both high schools.

Jenny Gottesman said she is the parent of a Worthington Kilbourne senior who was inducted into the society last spring.

"There is a saying that if something isn't broke, don't fix it," she said, "but what if it isn't working? Perhaps NHS has outlasted its usefulness in some ways, but I strongly believe that our NHS chapter deserves the attention and work to restore it to a proper functioning level."

Diane Cellentani asked board members, "By not having this program in our school, what kind of example are we setting for students?"

"The benefits of National Honor Society are immeasurable," Deidre Donovan said.

"It is a national program and I find it hard to believe one of the reasons given for its end (is) that it doesn't demand the same respect it used to in colleges," Donovan said. "I believe Kil-

bourne and Thomas have a wonderful group of parents who will dedicate their time and effort to keep this program afloat."

Several parents also showed up at the last board meeting to protest the end of the program.

All the objections appear to be in vain, however. Superintendent Melissa Conrath said National Honor Society will not be back, at least for this school year.

"It was an administrative decision," she said. "Both principals decided to discontinue the program because there have been concerns from parents and teachers about the process of choosing students, which has seemed subjective and selective to some people."

"We have been having trouble getting advisers for the program and will discuss whether there are other ways we can demonstrate and recognize students for improvement and accomplishment," she said.

## Light roast

Horton's roast began as soon as board business was

completed.

Assistant Superintendent Paul Cynkar showed a film depicting the benefit of "spoons" as eating implements, to remind Horton of a speech he made at a convocation celebration.

Former board member and Municipal Judge Gary Tyack paraphrased William Shakespeare.

"I come not to bury Bob, but to praise him," he said. "He has seen to the hiring of three treasurers and two superintendents and has done a marvelous job as a board member. Bob, you've made a huge contribution to our community, and I'm one of several who want to say thank you."

Former board member Tom O'Leary seconded Tyack's comments, reminding Horton of the controversy after a "chicken prank" at Thomas Worthington High School, and commended him for his years of service.

Board member Jennifer Best said she knew Horton in college and helped him with his first school board campaign.

"I got involved in the

campaign and got connected with board members and school issues, which is probably why I'm now a board member," she said.

Best gave Horton a print from all the board members depicting the old administration building and other district landmarks, along with a plaque for years of service.

Board member David Bressman said he "always appreciate Bob's ability to keep his focus on what was best for the kids."

Horton said he appreciates the people who worked with him over the years.

"We've come a long way in eight years," he said. "This district has amazed itself and is truly made up of citizens who are stepping up to try to make a difference."

"I'll miss the people that make up this district, especially the administrators," he said. "The amount of time and innovation the administrators put into their jobs is truly inspiring. When you're working with so many good people, you can't help doing a good job as a board member."

# Parents say NHS needs fix, not ax

By PAMELA WILLIS

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Parents protested the end of the National Honor Society in the Worthington City School District and a longtime board member was roasted at the end of his last board meeting this week.

The Worthington school board held its last meeting of the year Monday, Dec. 10. It also was the last meeting for board President Bob Horton, who served as a board member for more than eight years.

Newly elected member Julie Keegan will be sworn in at the board's organizational meeting, which will begin at 7:30

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