

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting

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First, I want to offer a shout-out to Brian Scott for his tireless work at promoting and organizing the WEA Blood Drives. I participated in the April 12 edition and was in and out in 40 minutes, a new personal record. I think there is one more coming this year – in June.

I think that Julie mentioned that the CLC met on April 13 and Charlie graciously allowed me to take his spot that evening since he was out of town. I've mentioned this before, but the CLC is one of those district committees where there is genuine competition on the BOE to see who goes each year just because getting that parent input is so interesting and valuable, and so it was at the last meeting. The first exercise was, and I'm going to paraphrase, what will be different about Worthington Schools if we live up to our new mission and vision statements. I applaud this kind of activity because a mission/vision statement has to be actionable in order for it to accomplish much of anything. The results, and there are dozens of thoughts, are available on the district web site.

<http://www.worthington.k12.oh.us/cms/lib02/OH01001900/Centricity/Domain/55/NotesforCLCMeeting4.13.16.pdf>

The next day, along with Scott Dimauro and Tom Molnar, I participated in the Political Thought and Radicalism Speaker Series at Worthington Kilbourne which, I still say, is the most fun you can have as a school board member. The students are weeks away from graduation and have some pretty unique and authentic perspectives on what they would change about the education system in Worthington based on their experiences. To be sure, parts of it reflect their teacher's views, but some of it also seemed to reflect frustration at the system in general. I would take this opportunity to again renew my call for a voluntary "exit interview" of sorts to be requested of every graduating senior and their parents. You will never get as honest feedback from anyone as you will from someone who doesn't need your services any more. I think the results would be fascinating.

The annual 6th grade EPP graduation ceremony was held on April 20. The keynote speaker was Dr. Raj Shah, the founder of the Columbus Math Academy and it was fantastic. Why? Dr. Shah revealed that there is a problem worshipping at the altar of right answers. The 6th grade EPPers have always been successful at math and it comes very naturally to most of them, but as Dr. Shah stated and I can personally attest, there comes a time when math is no longer simple, when you can no longer do the problems in your head and when you realize that no matter how much you know, someone else will always know more. If you have been taught to be inquisitive, to ask why and to recognize that the journey is as important as the destination, you will persevere in higher level math. If you've been taught that the right answer is the only thing that matters, you might learn to hate math. While it may be obvious, I thought it was worth sharing although I'm sure the administration might be thinking that I ask "why" a little bit to much...

The Treasurer's advisory committee met the next day and dispensed with its usual forecast review for the much harder discussion of what to do with capital improvements. There was resistance to the notion of running a bond issue or PI levy until we complete the facilities process laid out tonight, perhaps in favor of using operating dollars if necessary. The TAC will be offering invaluable advice with subject matter experts on the subject of facilities and how they related to finances in the months to come.

Finally, Sam and I attending the Granby assembly in honor of Sheri Fitz, the recipient of the Ohio Elementary School Secretary of the Year award along with many other dignitaries. As Dr. Bowers pointed out, there are around 3000 elementary schools in Ohio and only one Secretary of the Year and she works for us. It was fun listening to students and staff reading their nominating letters to Sheri. Mark Jones, the official from the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators mentioned that all successful principals understand the importance of getting the right secretary although to be honest, after reviewing our job description for the position, I don't think the word "secretary" clearly connotes the tasks these individuals are expected to do, especially the catch all that says "additional duties". Congratulations, Sheri.