

Prepared Notes for Board Meeting – June 13, 2011
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I wanted to make four quick comments and offer a legislative rant.

First, congratulations to all involved for the commencement ceremonies on Saturday, June 4. Considering that it was a brand new venue, I think the two schools did a splendid job. I also want to thank Ms. Keegan and Mr. Bressman for accepting the graduating classes on behalf of the board and in delivering very heartfelt remarks on what was obviously a very emotional day.

Second, I attended the 6th grade EPP recognition ceremony a week or so ago and I want to thank Brenda Toler, the principals, Dr. Conrath and the EPP teachers for participating in this event. In addition to providing great photo-ops for parents, the event reinforces the message that society will ultimately reward those who challenge themselves in school and that in Worthington, academics count.

Third, along with Julie and Charlie, I attended the presentation by Jason Cervenec on his Fulbright Scholar experience teaching in India. To say that this was fascinating would be an understatement and the implications of having Mr. Cervenec's former students as both our country's partners and, in some cases, our competitors could serve as a wakeup call for our high school renewal initiatives.

Fourth, on May 26, the Ohio Department of Aging honored the inductees into the Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame, including the founders of Worthington's Circle of Grandparents. The ceremony is available over the internet on the Ohio Channel or the Department of Aging web site:

http://www.aging.ohio.gov/news/finerwithage/view_hofecg2011.htm

With the circle of grandparents portion starting at about the 1 hour, 43 minute mark.

Now for my legislative rant. Wednesday night, the Ohio House is holding its sixth hearing on House Bill 136 which creates an unlimited number of vouchers available to anyone within the income guidelines. The legislature continues to propagate this fiction that local tax dollars are not used in the creation of these scholarships and this question needs to be settled once and for all. Both HB136 and HB153, the state budget, contain additional language for special education scholarships. The scholarships would also, at least in Worthington, be primarily dependent on local tax dollars.

My personal belief, and I will represent it as such, is that the state can do whatever it wants with their money, but I draw the line when they confiscate money that was voted by Worthington residents for a specific purpose and redirect it to a purpose that it was not originally intended for.

