

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting –
September 14, 2015
Marc A. Schare
614 791-0067
marc9@aol.com**

First, I just wanted to mention the great jobs our buildings do each year on curriculum night, at least if the two I attended are any indication. I attended curriculum night at McCord and then the next night at Worthington Kilbourne and I had some random observations.

Observation 1: It seems that technology has finally been embraced by a majority of our educators. It is being incorporated seamlessly into the business of education. One of my personal goals for our district was to see the day where technology wasn't perceived as something you taught, it was perceived as something you used to teach everything else. At least from what I was able to observe over 2 curriculum nights, that day is here.

Observation 2: if there is any residual angst over Common Core or testing, it wasn't obvious from the questions that parents were asking. The most frequent request seemed to be if there was a way to allow parents to have a separate logon to see what their kids are doing rather than having to get the student's userid and password.

Observation 3: Our teachers sure know how to cram a lot of information into 10 minute sessions, but one thing was evident in the dozen plus classes I witnessed. Teachers want to be accessible to both students and parents. Teachers are practically begging to be accessible to students and parents. Email. Texting. Infinite Campus. Whatever works. It would have been impossible to walk away from any of these sessions with any apprehension about being able to contact the teacher if the need arose.

All in all, I was impressed with both curriculum nights and it kind of makes me wish I had a second shot at High School in a district like ours.

Next, I wanted to offer an update from our last board meeting. As you know, the Dispatch statehouse reporter, Jim Siegel, watched the entire video of our discussions around the TPP line item veto and charter school funding methodologies. He chose to write about the latter. In the meantime, our resolution called for Rep. Mike Duffey to sponsor legislation for direct funding of charter schools. Being the most responsive member of the legislature in the state, Rep. Duffey complied. The path to creating legislation starts with the Representative soliciting input and sketching out what he wants to draft. Then, the Representative meets with the non-partisan legislative service commission, or LSC and LSC translates the sketched out item into legislative language. In our case, since this would result in an additional state appropriation, the draft had to include a dollar number and here, the process has temporarily stalled. Rep. Duffey mentioned over the weekend that LSC believes the number is impossible to calculate and was therefore not able to draft the bill. I pointed out to him, and to you, that the number,

when it is calculated, will represent the local tax contribution to charter schools in the state – voted (excluding inside millage) property tax dollars that are now be diverted for a different purpose. Rep. Duffey will eventually get the legislation drafted and submitted. It is worth noting that in the 2 weeks since our meeting, both Senate Education Chair Peggy Lehner and House Education Chair Bill Hayes have both indicated an interest in discussing the issue.

On our other issue, Rep. Duffey believes (as we discussed at the meeting) that Worthington will get a better result with separate legislation than with pushing forward with a line item veto override. He is working with a Cincinnati area member of the legislature, Rep. Dever, on that legislation. Rep. Dever represents a number of districts that were even more impacted than we are and in an amazing coincidence, includes the new school district of our former Superintendent among them so one thing is for sure – Rep. Dever will be working with at least one Superintendent that understands the issue in depth.