

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting**

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Last week, I kept our Superintendent company attending the regional meeting of the Alliance for a High Quality Education (AHQE). AHQE primarily represents on lobbys on behalf of suburban school districts.

This was a very lively meeting. Discussion topics included the impending high school graduation apocalypse, college credit plus costs, priorities for the 18-19 biennial budget and the general state of the Ohio Department of Education with optimism that our new State Superintendent can reverse the trend. It was the consensus of the group that action should be taken to avoid the high school graduation apocalypse as early as the lame duck session since you really can't afford to wait for the budget bill. The state and local districts are simply not prepared for what happens if 25 to 40 percent of high school seniors lack the credits and/or grades to graduate on time. The group was somewhat mixed on what the remedy should be, however. It is a complex problem. Ohio's leaders want the high school diploma to reflect higher standards which it was not getting through the Ohio Graduation Test. Fair point, but the state has to be prepared for the fallout from that decision and it is not.

That same day, we all attended the first community task force meeting and, as expected, I hopped on the Dejong web site all prepared to move students in neighborhoods from one school to another just to see how that particular bit of functionality worked and was somewhat surprised to learn that it is not yet available. As the functionality is essential to the task at hand, I would urge our district leadership in their ongoing discussions with Dejong to prioritize that capability.

Finally, I'm sure we all enjoyed the Thomas Worthington Homecoming Parade. I had the privilege of following the Judy Gallaso, the latest inductee in the Thomas Worthington Hall of Fame, and therefore had a front row seat for the first parade in the history of Franklin County to get lost on the parade route. Fortunately, watch 10 Corvettes perform a simultaneous U-Turn brought an unexpected bit of automotive poetry to the proceedings and we continue to treasure that annual event as a highlight of the fall season.