

**Prepared Notes for Board Meeting –
November 11, 2015
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Let me start tonight's update with a shout out to everyone who has helped with Worthington's legislative advocacy. It is a difficult game and more often than not, we don't get our way, but every now and then, we get a table scrap off the legislative plate which makes the effort worthwhile. This year's table scrap was Senate Bill 208, legislation that was born out of the threat of a bipartisan legislative line item veto that started in this very room. To be sure, when all was said and done, the legislature heard from many districts, but so far as I know, we started the ball rolling with our session with Rep. Mike Duffey and Rep. David Leland. Behind the scenes, Rep. Duffey was working tirelessly to tweak the legislation to our advantage by slowing down the phase out rate and starting the phase out at a higher number. We got some, but certainly not all, of what we wanted, but I'll take this particular half a loaf and be grateful that it clearly establishes legislative intent for the next 2 budget cycles.

We have also made progress on our other issue, charter school funding. Senator Lehner acknowledged during the capital conference that the issue is very much on their radar screen and also acknowledged the fear of the Republican caucus that directly funding charter schools rather than using public school districts as the middleman would have the unintended side effect of allowing an anti-charter-school governor to line-item-veto the entirety of charter school appropriations in a future budget, thus unilaterally ending charter schools without legislative input. Ironically, the best time to advocate for our position is now as the Republican primary season heats up. I hope to meet with both Rep. Kunze and Rep. Grossman, the two main Republican candidates for the Senate seat that represents most of our district and discuss legislative priorities as defined by the district earlier this year.

Speaking of members of the legislature, I did want to thank all who were involved in the visit to our district of Congressman Pat Tiberi last month. While Congressman Tiberi may not have direct input on the ESEA reauthorization, any opportunity to discuss federal education legislation with someone that actually gets a vote should not be wasted, and we didn't. It is also great that students get to see an actual US Congressman every now and then.

The curriculum liaison committee met a few weeks back and our staff did a great job with the event. Notable for me were the accolades for the Worthington academy by parents of kids who were literally saved by that option being available.

I attended the 8th grade choral concert at the Worthington Christian Church and it was totally awesome. It is such a fantastic venue for the event and it was absolutely packed. Each middle school got to sing both alone and paired with the high school choruses. The

event requires a lot of coordination that parents and board members never see, but I understand that Jennifer Wene was the go-to on making it happen, so thank you Jennifer.

Finally, I did want to comment on one aspect of the state's Academic Standards Review Committee for math. You'll recall that the review committee was put into place to see if the Common Core math standards needed to be tweaked, drastically changed or somewhere in the middle. The statewide committee has 7 representatives and 2 of them are from Worthington, Brad Findel and Kate Whitesel. We are on safe ground in claiming that Worthington was more than adequately represented on the state's math curriculum review committee although I understand that the tweaks, if any, should be relatively small.