

Resolution Opposing House Bill 597

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio adopted the Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science and Social Studies Standards in 2010; and

WHEREAS, As a result of the State adoption, the Worthington School District has spent over 3 years, thousands of man hours and millions of dollars in creating and implementing a local curriculum that aligns with these standards; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 597 as proposed by the General Assembly would repeal these standards, replacing them with state standards that existed in the State of Massachusetts in the year 2010, use the Massachusetts standards for 2 years and then replace those with brand new standards in the year 2017; and

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio mandated the use of the PARCC assessments effective for the 2014-2015 school year and has provided ongoing, consistent guidance on the technology requirements thereof; and

WHEREAS, Worthington School District taxpayers, relying on the State's guidance, passed a bond issue in 2012 based in part on the technology requirements; and

WHEREAS, The Worthington School District has spent millions of dollars in upgraded bandwidth, computers and facilities partially designed to comply with the PARCC mandate; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 597 as proposed by the General Assembly would repeal the use of PARCC and replace it with unspecified assessments that would theoretically align with Massachusetts standards from 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Worthington School District is teaching its new curriculum in the 2014-2015 school year but House Bill 597 requires us to use assessments from the 2013-2014 school year causing a misalignment between curriculum and assessments; and

WHEREAS, such misalignment would produce invalid and misleading results on the state report cards, teacher evaluation mechanisms and data that the district uses for continuous improvement; and

WHEREAS, the administration, teachers, parents and community members have confidence in the locally developed curriculum and our district's ability to deliver it as identified by numerous polls; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 597 could expose Worthington to serious federal sanctions under "No Child Left Behind"; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Worthington School Board believe that the impetus for House Bill 597 is based on misinformation and that some of the information regarding local impact provided by proponents to the House Rules and Reference committee is directly contradicted by our collective experience implementing the standards. Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Worthington City Schools Board of Education and its administration and are opposed to House Bill 597 and we urge the Ohio Rules and Reference Committee to drop this bill as its looming presence encourages educational chaos throughout the state of Ohio; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the event that House Bill 597 makes it to the floor, the Worthington City Schools Board of Education urge State Rep. Mike Duffey and State Rep. John Carney to strongly oppose the legislation.

Final.