

## **Board of Education President's Report**

**Matt Cellura**

**March 21, 2018**

Good Evening and thank you for attending. I would like to start off this evening by congratulating Ms. Tyahana Elder for her tremendous accomplishment, as she won the Girls Division 1 OHSAA Bowling State Championship. This is a great accomplishment and one that I hope she remembers forever. I would also like to Ms. Alexandra Holmes for being named a 2018 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards National Gold Medal Winner. Ms. Holmes placed in the top 1% out of over 350,000 entries nationwide with her editorial cartoon "Plastic Politician." She will be attending an awards ceremony at Carnegie Hall in early June and our District could not be more proud of her work and recognition.

Two weeks ago this Board unanimously passed a resolution voicing our opposition to HB512, and since then more than 30 other Districts have done the same, with many others placing similar resolutions on their agendas for their next meetings. This Board and Administration have continued to press our State Officials and push for them to stop this bill from proceeding, and again I will ask for your assistance in this. Stripping away power from elected officials and handing those powers and authority over to a political appointee who is not accountable to the public does nothing to improve education in Ohio, and only harms our most important resource, our children. Despite our calls, emails, and resolutions, this bill continues to move forward. We need our community to stand up and make your voices heard, that you will not continue to let our legislators strip away our local control. I urge each and every one of you in this room to contact our representatives in Columbus and voice your disdain and concern with this bill.

I want to thank Superintendent Powers and her team for putting together the Community Forum to discuss school safety last Wednesday. I would like to thank Twinsburg Police Chief Noga, Assistant Chief Gonsiewski, Fire Chief Morgan, Reminderville Police Chief Buck, School Resource Officer Fruscella, and Deputy Sheriff Dobbins, for their parts in the presentation, as well as for all of the cooperative work they do with our District in planning and implementing our

safety protocols and plans. I would like to thank all of the concerned community members and parents who attended and submitted the numerous questions and concerns that I hope were addressed and answered. For those in the community who were unable to attend, Cable 9 will be airing their taping of the event starting in April on Tuesdays at 8pm, Fridays at 1030pm, and Saturdays at 1pm. Please tune in if possible so that you can see the extent that the District has improved and adapted its safety and security protocols as we make the safety and security of our students a top priority. In keeping with this, we will tonight vote on a resolution imploring our Federal and State elected officials to work together to not only enact legislation, but to properly fund any measures and prioritize the safety and security of our schools. The violence that has far too often occurred in schools, as recently as yesterday at a High School in Maryland, needs to be addressed and actions taken to prevent it. There is no easy solution, as it is a complex issue with many layers that need to be addressed. As a District, we have made vast improvements to our physical buildings and busses, our personnel, and our action plans, but it is time for those at levels higher than us to stop the partisan politics and focus on the safety of our children. It is my hope that this Board joins other Boards across the State and country and passes this resolution this evening. I would again ask that you join us and our efforts and contact our elected officials, urging them to put forth a serious effort in collaborating to help end this violence.

Without further delay, I will now turn the meeting over to Superintendent Powers for her report and the recognition of all of these young students here tonight.