

Thursday Memo

To: Kettering Board of Education

Dr. James Schoenlein, Superintendent

CC: Treasurer's Office Staff, Administrative staff, Mike Bock

From: Steve Clark, Treasurer

Date: February 25, 2010

Monday Ohio newspapers reported on "Restoring Prosperity: Transforming Ohio's Communities for the Next Economy" the result of nearly three years of work by the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public-policy organization.

The report calls for a major shift of education money from administration, ninth-highest in the U.S. to the classroom (47th). (The report states the administrative ranking is based on "district administration" rather than school administration such as principal). It calls on state officials to create a "high-level education reorganization commission" like the one the federal government uses for military-base closings.

The commission would recommend school closings and consolidations aimed at eliminating districts with fewer than 2,000 to 2,500 students (interesting that the report tells the commission what to recommend). That would lower the number of districts statewide to 411 from about 611, the report said.

What will get lost in the reporting of this story will be that the projected administrative saving would be achieved by reducing the number of school districts. What we'll hear is that school administrators' salaries are too high.

I'd have to agree that Ohio has too many school districts; however, making the cut at 2,500 students will never happen. Here are some of the school districts with less than 2,500 students according to the Ohio Department of Education. **I don't think anyone is going to make these districts consolidate:**

School District	County	ADM	Income rank*
Cuyahoga Heights	Cuyahoga	870	175
Ottawa Hills	Lucas	1,006	2
Beachwood	Cuyahoga	1,409	19
Madeira	Hamilton	1,453	27
Finneytown	Hamilton	1,680	86
Chagrin Falls	Cuyahoga	1,943	9
Wyoming	Hamilton	2,030	8
Bexley	Franklin	2,099	15
Indian Hills	Hamilton	2,108	6
Monroe	Butler	2,182	61
(Monroe recently separated from the Middleton CSD)			
Oakwood	Montgomery	2,193	10
Orange	Cuyahoga	2,217	5

The following districts would be toast (toast is a finance term meaning SOL):

Jefferson	Montgomery	717	448
New Lebanon	Montgomery	1,173	384
Northridge	Montgomery	1,729	600
Valley View	Montgomery	2,021	127
Clark-Shawnee	Clark	2,236	220

*District Median Income, 1 being the highest income, 608 the lowest. KCSD is ranked 217th and has 7,447 students

The study also recommends better cooperation and collaboration between what it calls "tiny box" government entities - the state's 250 cities, 695 villages and 1,308 townships, but I doubt we hear much about that.