

TO: Board Members  
Administrative Staff

Cc: Mike Bock

FROM: Dr. James J. Schoenlein

RE: Competitive Kids in a Global Economy  
AYP Principal Summit  
Ohio Selected to Move on in RttT Competition  
Levy Update

DATE: March 5, 2010

**Competitive Kids in a Global Economy**

We have talked about three reasons for voters to support our May 4 levy:

- (1) Continue our great school system that serves all of our students so well
- (2) Maintain stable property values in this city
- (3) Provide our children and grandchildren with a bright, successful, prosperous future by equipping them with a competitive edge in the new global economy.

Are you a little fuzzy on the third argument? Check your packet for the DDN article included or the DDN article online at:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/news/community/kettering/three-fairmont-seniors-soar-in-ohio-engineering-event-567562.html>

Three of our Fairmont students beat out 49 other high schools from around the state in an engineering Real World Design Challenge. These guys redesigned the tail of a jet to make the plane more fuel efficient. Now they move on to Washington, D. C. for national competition.

Thomas Friedman and Daniel Pink claim that our kids cannot expect to be paid multiple times what other workers around the world are paid for doing the same work. Our children and grandchildren must do work that no one else can do, they must carve out a niche for themselves in the new super-competitive global economy that will enable them to earn much more than all of the other humans around the world. Our future lies with creativity, ingenuity, higher order thinking

skills, problem solving, and entrepreneurship. Bill Gates says our future is in innovation, innovation, innovation.

This is what I am talking about. This is what "Reason to Support the Levy" #3 means. Kettering City School System is uniquely positioned and qualified to enable our kids to be successful and prosperous in a highly competitive economic future. Our citizens can be fully confident that we can and will get this job done for their children and grandchildren.

### **AYP Principal Summit**

Building Principals, thanks for your thoughtful contributions at our AYP Summit on Thursday. Werner Heisenberg, father of the atomic bomb, used to say that he and his people went into a discussion thinking one way and came out thinking a whole different way. I often feel that way, certainly after Thursday's gathering. When you have time, sit in a dark room and think real hard until you get a headache. Then, we will meet and continue our discussion sometime soon.

### **Ohio Selected to Move on in RttT Competition**

The Obama Administration has allotted \$4.35 billion specifically for education reform. The funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis. Ohio is among 16 finalists invited to Washington to defend their proposals. Ohio State Superintendent Deb Delisle says that, "Although this not an announcement of an award, we are turning our minds toward the subsequent implementation of the programs established in our RttT strategy plan." Grant awardees will be announced in April.

In the beginning, Ohio was considered to be in the "can't miss" category; that Washington would never leave Ohio out of any reform initiative. As the state applications came in, optimism began to wane. For example, while Ohio had just 40% of local districts signed on via the Memorandum of Understanding, Tennessee had 100%. We will see how it comes out.

### **Levy Update**

I have finished my levy visits to the buildings. I will now send an e-mail to all teachers as a follow-up and a donation reminder.

Articles about the levy campaign tri-chairs should be in the papers very soon.

Our voter registration campaign is underway. Kids will carry home reminder flyers, FHS Senior Advisory Teachers are encouraging seniors to register, and a reminder will be in our employee newsletter.

We will push registration at school functions. For example, over the next three weeks, the JFK Pancake Breakfast this Saturday, the Beavertown Spring Carnival next Saturday, the Greenmont Spring Carnival on March 20, the KMS Orchestra Concert on March 11, the FHS Spring Sports Parent Meeting on March 14, the VB Orchestra Concert and the N2Art Grand Opening on March 16, the MM Spring Play on March 18, the KMS Musical on March 19 & 20, the All-Kettering Band Concert at Trent on March 23, the KMS Choir Concert on March 24, and the Greenmont Recorder Concert on March 25.

We are preparing our first glossy postcard mailer.

Two parents are working on a levy Facebook page and a levy module for the Internet.

We will be visiting the priests at our Catholic parishes soon.

On March 11, we will ask the DDN for an endorsement of our levy.

On March 23, we will ask the City of Kettering for an endorsement of our levy.

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