

## GOVERNOR'S FORUMS CONTINUE

By now, you are probably aware of the forums that have been held across Ohio to discuss our public educational system. These forums have been hosted by Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland, as he attempts to improve on various aspects of Ohio's Public Education System. To date, two rounds of forums have been hosted across Ohio. These forums are held before live audiences. The audiences typically include teachers, administrators, board members, students, professors, business persons, and other members from our communities at large.

In the first round of forums, Governor Strickland discussed and sought feedback on what people feel our public education system should look like. As it turns out, I happened to attend the forum in our area that was hosted by Chillicothe High School. In general, the audience at this particular forum was open to sharing their views and ideas---which is what the Governor is seeking from these audiences. The second round of forums recently concluded. The major topic for these sessions was how to pay for Ohio's system of educating its youth. While my schedule did not permit me to attend one of the second round forums, I did attend a "block party" held at Waverly High School where the audience watched a taping of the second round forum that was held at Ohio University in Athens. I'm sure that you can well imagine that there was no shortage of views or ideas as to how education should be structured or funded.

I must say that I certainly respect the attempt by Governor and Mrs. Strickland to involve all of this in the process of determining "once and for all" what Ohio's Public School

System should look like, and how it is to be funded. Preparing for and conducting these forums is, after all, no small task. Then, there is the job of sifting through all of the feedback. In the end, I doubt that everyone will be completely satisfied with the final result. Nonetheless, I am impressed with the effort being targeted for this project.

At this point in time, you are probably well aware that the Governor has rolled out the plan for improving educational services to Ohio's students. Personally, I am impressed with many aspects of this plan and I will likely expand on some of my thoughts in a future article. I should also add that I don't agree with all of his educational proposals. However, who can say just what the educational reform plan will look like by the time it is dissected and spliced by those in political office in this state. I suppose that the biggest thing that I find puzzling about Governor Strickland's Education Reform Plan is that I do not understand where all of the money is going to come from to pay for it. It surely all can't come from increased fines, fees, and tolls. Even if Ohio receives a slice of federal bail-out money, this is a quick two-year "fix." What happens at the end of those two years? The Governor has already gone on record as opposing any new taxes to support this plan. I think it will be interesting to see how all of this plays out, or if it even becomes reality, especially if Ohio's economy doesn't begin to turn around soon. In the meantime, I will continue to encourage our Board of Education to conduct its financial business under the air of caution. Counting on state or federal dollars in this economy is something to be wary of doing until you have received the check in the mail.

SURVEY REMINDER

In the event that you haven't heard or read about it, the Adams County/Ohio Valley School District and Superintendent are considering plans to proceed to implement dual bus routing for the 2009-2010 school year. The decision to study this option was made with student safety, traffic safety, and savings to the taxpayers in mind.

At this time, I am sharing with you the opportunity to participate in a survey to gather feedback from our parents. The survey opportunity is available for those who are interested. Just go to [www.ovsd.us](http://www.ovsd.us) and click-on the link "Dual Routing Survey." It is just beneath the link for "Building Project Update." The survey is very easy and brief, and you should have no problems using it. There is also a spot where you can add comments, if you like. This opportunity will remain on our website until noon on Friday, February 20th.

If you have any questions regarding this article, please feel free to contact me at 544-5586. Thank you.

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Superintendent