



### What is the School Board of the Future?



Steve Horton, OSBA School Board Services Consultant

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OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

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### Where does the conversation start?

1. What are the issues and challenges facing public education?
2. What is the vision of the "school board of the future?"
3. What are the possible actions we can take to get there?

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### Why look to the future?



*"We talk a good fight about wanting to have excellent schools when in fact we're content to have average ones."*

- David Gardner  
"Nation at Risk" Commission

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Before you send your child to public school. . .

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- John Taylor Gatto

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Social/Technology changes

*From the Industrial Revolution to Today. . .*



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Social/Technology Changes

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- Ken Robinson  
Do Schools Kill Creativity?

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## Social/Technology changes



Does our education model fit?

Is it time for a paradigm shift?

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## Social/Technology changes

*"Schools today are preparing students for jobs that don't exist right now, using technology that frequently is outdated soon after it is purchased."*

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## Demographics

### Consider Urban Districts

Summer 1967  
Large City Commission = 7 large Urban School Districts

Early 1990's  
Urban Commission = 15 larger Urban School Districts

In the 2000's  
Urban School District Advisory Network = 21 Largest Urban School Districts

2015  
Urban School District Advisory Network = 54 districts of all sizes as classified by ODE

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## Demographics



- More students from single parent families
- More students from families below the poverty level
- More non-English speaking students
- An aging population without children in the district

*More students come from homes where education is not a valued asset!*

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## State and Federal over regulation

A standardized test is any form of test that (1) requires all test takers to answer the same questions, or a selection of questions from common bank of questions, in the same way, and that (2) is scored in a "standard" or consistent manner, which makes it possible to compare the relative performance of individual



...Aug 21, 2015, The Glossary of Education Reform

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## State and Federal over regulation

**Race to the Top**

**OTES and OPES**

**New State Report Card**

**State and Mayoral Takeovers  
HB 70**



**No Child Left Behind**

**Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

**Disabilities Education Act**

**Academic Distress Commission**

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## Vouchers and Privatization

*"A free market is when I use my own money to invest it in a business that I believe will give me a profit. If it fails, I lose money. That's not what we're doing here. These individuals are coming into the public sector, taking taxpayer dollars, and investing it to make a personal profit, with no risk to themselves. If they fail to get results, they can still make great profit, even if kids suffer."*

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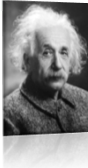
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## Perception is Reality!



*"Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one."*

- Albert Einstein



*"In the first place, God made idiots. That was for practice. Then he made school boards"*

- Albert Einstein

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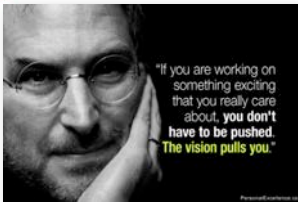
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## A vision for the future



**Focus on the end result.....**

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## A Call to leadership for school boards

Lighthouse Study NSBA's Center for Public Education  
*8 Characteristics of an Effective School Board*

1. Commit to a vision of high expectation for student achievement
2. Hold strong shared beliefs and values about what is possible for students
3. Remain accountability driven
4. Maintain a collaborative relationship with staff and community
5. Work to be data savvy
6. Work with their administrators to align and sustain resources
7. Lead as a united team with their superintendents
8. Take part in team development and training with the superintendent and treasurer

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## School Boards of the Future

### Accountability

- ✓ Too often defined in a narrow and punitive way
- ✓ Must be based on sound research and best practices
- ✓ Support graduated, flexible systems of intervention



*"The board realizes that in extreme circumstances, that such intervention may mean the removal of local officials when there is persistent division and instability."*

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## School Boards of the Future

### Advocacy



- ✓ Must be seen as a primary responsibility of every board member!
- ✓ It is the only way to shift legislature from mandating prescriptive programs
- ✓ Work to align school interests and needs with community partnerships

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## School Boards of the Future

### Innovation

- ✓ School boards should be a catalyst for innovation
- ✓ Facilitate programs that allow individualized learning plans
- ✓ Seek to be free from State and Federal laws and regulation  
*"State and federal authorities have culled rules that and regulations that stifle innovation."*  
- The School Board of the Future
- ✓ Expand innovation to business operations and infrastructure

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Where is the line between good legislation (accountability) and too much intervention?

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## School Boards of the Future



- ✓ Embrace district-wide customer-service
- ✓ Ensure that its schools provide the best educational options
- ✓ Seek to provide strong non-traditional options
- ✓ Maintain authority and accountability oversight for choice options in its jurisdiction

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How many school board members see their role as customer-service?

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*School board members – lets ensure a bright future!*

*Please remember to take your passion with you!*

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