

November 16 Columbus Dispatch Article on Legislation Proposed (SB178) That Strips the State Board of Education of its Core Duties Reveals That Some Who are Quoted in the Article Are Not Aware That the Board Was Established by a 1953 Constitutional Amendment.

SB178 would transfer the core duties of the State Board of Education to the Governor's office. The timing of this move may be a response to the election of Teresa Fedor, Tom Jackson and Katie Hofmann to the State Board.

The Senate President defended the move by suggesting the bureaucracy at the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has stonewalled education reform. Observers of the political process in Ohio know that ODE has little, if any, influence on education legislation. The Senate leadership equates education reform to legislation that privatizes public education. Do these officials not know that the State Board of Education is required by the Ohio Constitution?

An education privatization person often quoted by The Dispatch is quoted, "I don't know why the board exists." Further, this privatizer is quoted: "I think there are probably a lot of other ways to get this done..." This privatizer may be unaware that Ohioans passed a constitutional amendment in 1953 to establish a State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.