

House version of the state budget takes another whack at the State Board of Education

From 1914 until 1956 the Superintendent of Public Instruction was attached to the Governor's office. A 1953 constitutional amendment required a State Board of Education and a Superintendent of Public Instruction to be selected by the board. The original board was elected, one member from each congressional district, and thus became a fourth branch of government accountable to the people of Ohio. In the 1990's at the behest of Governor George Voinovich (who had lobbied for an all-appointed board) the legislature changed the governance structure to include 11 elected members and nine appointed members.

The 135th General Assembly illegally reassigned the primary duties of the State Board of Education to the Governor's office and then didn't provide enough funds to the board to perform the few tasks left in the state board's domain. Now a new whack in the House version of the state budget would replace the 11 elected and 9 appointed members with a five-member board appointed by the Governor. It seems the Ohio Constitution is a dead letter to the legislature and Governor of Ohio.

It also seems that the leadership of the House is vindictive regarding the common school system and its infrastructure.