

The political assault in the constitutionally-required State Board of Education is petty, illogical, vindictive, and unconstitutional.

Ohioans, via the 1953 constitutional amendment, removed the Superintendent of Public Instruction from the Governor's office by establishing the State Board of Education that was tasked with discharging education responsibilities and functions of state government.

Over the years since 1953, certain power-hungry politicians strayed from the lane of their constitutional responsibility, attempting to apprehend the powers and duties of this constitutionally-authorized 4th branch of government. Governors have been especially prone to usurp the powers of the State Board of Education.

The 135th General Assembly, in a high-handed, illegal, unconstitutional move supported by the Governor, highjacked the powers and duties of the State Board of Education and transferred them to the Governor's office in defiance of the Supreme law of Ohio. Some politicians, not happy with the outcome of the State Board election, started to ruminate on a plan to eliminate the elected membership of the State Board.

The House version of the budget would replace the 19-member board—11 elected and 8 appointed—with a five-member appointed board.

The five-member board would represent one from rural school districts; one from suburban school districts; one from urban districts; one from the charter school industry; and one from private schools. This proposed State Board composition is a blatant, hateful defamation of the constitutionally-required public common school system. Some politicians just can't hide their contempt for the public system.

When will Ohioans start holding politicians accountable for their petty, vindictive, loathsome actions?