

12.2.2021

Good Evening Members of the Board,

It's no secret that we are living in challenging times. Because of these challenges, many things have been brought to light, and parents are seeking to take a more active role in their children's education and the decision making process.

Currently there is a huge disconnect between parents and school boards across America and it doesn't have to be this way. We can learn how to work together through the process of understanding and compromise.

In the spirit of our children, as Americans, community members, parents and taxpayers, we are respectfully requesting that the BOE implement the following new procedures to help forge a better working relationship between parents and the board.

It has become clear that we are in the beginning stages of an economic crisis of epic proportions. Parents cannot afford to take time off every month to attend board meetings during the day. For this reason we are respectfully requesting that you reconsider your decision and schedule evening meetings every other month. In a perfect world we would prefer the meetings to be in the evening every month; however in the spirit of compromise, we are willing to work together. This will put Worcester County BOE in direct alignment with the other lower shore counties that already have evening meetings in place.

The recent article in the Ocean City Today (November 24th, 2021) quoted Lou Taylor saying, "Our Board of Education prides itself on being a board that recognizes the achievements of our students. By holding its meetings during the school day, the board can provide transportation for students being honored for their accomplishments in the classroom, on the playing field, on stage, and beyond."

As a Board of Education member, you are elected by district, by the CITIZENS of your county. The CITIZENS must have an avenue to be heard by the members of the board that they elected. It should be a top priority for the Board of Education to make sure as many citizens are able to be heard. A compromise of bi-monthly night meetings is not an outrageous request and must be re-evaluated.

Also, during these meetings, there is no discussion of what is being brought to the Board's attention and there is usually no follow up in a phone call or email to discuss what was brought to the Board's attention during the limited amount of time to speak. When will we, as citizens, be able to have dialog with the members of the Board to understand their positions on topics being discussed during our time to speak?

We are also requesting that all board meetings be videotaped with audio, and that the recordings be kept on file for parents and taxpayers to view at their convenience.

Darren Lombardo, speaker at the November meeting stated, "We implemented distance learning here; we have the technology to do that... so you guys are experts in streaming. You guys are

experts at delivering the platform and there's no reason we couldn't have that here so it could be seen. If it's a problem and you struggle with the implementation, I'm willing to offer IT consulting services to implement that PRO BONO."

I would strongly advise all members of the Board of Education to consider Darren Lombardo's FREE and LEGITIMATE services to better serve all citizens and members of the county.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters, and I look forward to your response.

Best Regards,

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Cited:

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