

Fully Accredited School

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March 21, 2023

Dear 68th North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

I am writing this letter in regards to SB 2260 by stating that I am adamantly opposed. As the secondary principal at Napoleon Public School, SB 2260 would do a disservice to our school district. Your vote for SB 2260 should be a NO vote to do what is best for our students and our communities.

As a building principal and former classroom teacher, I oppose this bill for multiple reasons. Each and every parent/guardian in our school district has the opportunity to come in and visit with us about the curriculum each classroom teacher is using on a daily basis. Each and every parent/guardian can ask for a teacher's lesson plans and have a conversation with teachers, administrators, and board members about what is being taught in our buildings. Why do we need legislation for something that our patrons are already allowed to do if they so choose?

Putting an unfair expectation on our teaching staff is only going to make it harder to fill teaching positions in the future. Teachers can have a plan for what they are going to teach during a semester or a school year. I have my staff map out what they want and need to accomplish each year using the state standards. There is no way they are going to be able to predict exactly what will be taught 7 days from now. The way this legislation is interpreted would not allow teachers to go back to reteach material because it would not be posted for 7 days before the lesson. Please let administrators and teachers who know our buildings run our buildings. This is a gross overstep of power and it feels again like we are being micromanaged every time we turn around in education.

Section 1 of this bill would go against all of the safety precautions and legislation that has been proposed in this legislative assembly. We should have cameras for safety but cannot use the footage without parental consent. Again, please let us control our buildings at the local level and support us, not limit us.

Our teachers work hard to provide a quality education for each and every student they have contact with on a daily basis. Please do not take away the opportunity to use a teachable moment because it was not posted 7 days before. Education is not a cookie cutter operation where our teachers use a script and go through the motions. They are professionals doing a job that changes by the day, hour, and minute. As a teacher I added curriculum in the middle of a semester because it was a great addition or may even have been necessary to create better understanding. Do not take this option away from my staff or any other teachers.

Sincerely,

Chad Berger
Secondary Principal
Athletic Director