



Logan Elm Local School District

9579 Tarlton Road • Telephone (740) 474-7501
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO 43113-9417

April 30, 2019

Testimony addressing SB 4 – House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

Chairman Blessing, Vice Chairman Jones, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Tim Williams, and I am the Superintendent of Logan Elm Local Schools in Hocking and Pickaway Counties. I would like to thank the Committee for allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 4, which would appropriate an additional \$100 million for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to continue its work.

Logan Elm Local Schools is a rural school district located roughly thirty miles south of Columbus in Pickaway and Hocking Counties. The district encompasses 199-square-miles, and we educate approximately 1850 students. Our community still has principles that are rooted in an agricultural society: hard work, pride, honesty, and family. Even though agriculture still plays a role, we have been fortunate to see economic development over the past several years, and this has led to a decline in our unemployment rate. Most recently, the opening of Sofidel America brought an additional 350 jobs to the region.

Our relationship with OFCC began in 2003, when the District realized the need to address our aging buildings. The District currently has four buildings that are over one hundred years old: Pickaway Elementary built in 1912, Salt Creek Intermediate in 1916, Laurelville Elementary in 1917 and Washington Elementary in 1917. Our newest school, McDowell Middle School, is approaching 50 years in age. Yet we continue to excel academically. Most recently, we received the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for our students' performance in value added. We represent less than 1% of the Districts in Ohio to have received this recognition at least three times.

Since 2003, Logan Elm Schools have been on the ballot six times to address the needs of our buildings in order to provide our students with the same opportunities other students throughout the State are afforded. In November of 2018, after years of working with OFCC on various master plans, our community approved a bond issue to construct a new PK-12 building for our students. The local share of our project was 44.3 million dollars (74%) with OFCC allocating 13.8 million dollars (26%).

We are eager to begin our project as soon as possible. This would allow our District to capture low interest rates, eliminate costs associated with operating six aging buildings, and avoid inflationary cost increases. All Districts, working with OFCC, will benefit from moving SB 4 forward, and the residents of Ohio will save money, if they can capture the lower interest rates and avoid the inflationary cost.



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Logan Elm Schools and its residents are looking forward to the opening of our new PK-12 building that will provide our students with a safe, handicap accessible school that has the amenities of a modern school rather than one built prior to the 1st World War!

Chairman Blessing, we greatly appreciate the opportunity to share a little about Logan Elm Local Schools and to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 4. I would be happy to address any questions from the committee at the pleasure of the chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Williams".

Tim Williams

Superintendent

Logan Elm Schools