



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Witness Form

Today's Date March 8, 2019

Name: Dr. Michael A. Rock, CPA

Address: 4500 Warrensville Center Road, Warrensville Heights, Ohio 44128

Telephone: 216-865-4735

Organization Representing: Warrensville Heights City School District

Testifying on Bill Number: Senate Bill #4

Testimony:  Verbal  Written  Both

Testifying As:  Proponent  Opponent  Interested Party

Are you a Registered Lobbyist?  Yes  No

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_



**WARRENSVILLE  
HEIGHTS**  
City School District

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## **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ADDRESSING SB 4**

3/12/19

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Sykes, and members of the Senate Finance Committee, my name is Dr. Michael A. Rock. I am the CFO Treasurer of Warrensville Heights City School District in Cuyahoga County. Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee and communicate the significance of Senate Bill 4.

Warrensville Heights City School District educates more than 1,700 scholars from Warrensville Heights, the village of Highland Hills, and the village of North Randall. The District is connected to the southeast corner of the city of Cleveland. The City of Warrensville Heights is known as the “Friendly City” being the primary hub of the community along with the school district. Residents take great pride in being graduates from the school system. Enormous support for the school district was evident this past November with a 78% passage rate on a bond levy to complete new districtwide facilities for the school community.

Our facilities master plan will consolidate five buildings into a two building campus replacing aging schools with new facilities designed for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning. This plan will impact the school community with financial savings and a central campus layout. Phase one for a new Prek to 5 building is underway, with the State adding \$8.3M to the District funds of \$17M. Phase two of the master plan will be funded with \$12M of State funds and \$68M of District funds; again raised with a 78% approval rating at Warrensville Heights City School District.

The school community has put a high priority on providing the tools for a great education that begins with a safe, warm, and engaging learning environment. The community, Board of Education and District Leadership are committed to ensuring that the new facilities meet the needs of all scholars. The Superintendent, a graduate from Warrensville Heights, often states that the energy of the scholars, staff, parents and community create a great collective effort that focuses the commitment of the District to excel.

Increasing the funding allocation for new school construction will allow school districts in a similar situation as Warrensville Heights City School District to proceed with improvements or new construction of classroom facilities. The taxpayers of Warrensville Heights have already authorized and passed the bond levy for the District funds for phase two of their master plan. However, the District is currently waiting for the State to approve funding of the project in order to move forward with new construction. I am confident that there are more school districts

*“One Team, One Vision, One Goal”*

waiting for State funding in order to proceed with their respective master plans, which is why the passage of SB4 is so important.

Being a CPA and CFO, I have to expand on the mathematical analysis of the State investing an additional \$100M for the State share of constructing classroom facilities in Ohio schools. The funding will allow more school districts to move forward with the construction of new school buildings and improvements. Assuming an equal distribution of the \$12M State share that Warrensville Heights City School District will receive would provide funding for 8 school districts. Furthermore, 8 school districts can easily add up to almost 21,000 scholars based on the average school district enrollment in Ohio. This simple analysis proves the point that an additional \$100M of appropriations by the State for general obligation bonds to pay the state share of constructing classroom facilities will increase the number of school districts that are approved to proceed with new construction. Most importantly, the additional funding will benefit thousands of Ohio scholars, the primary reason for public education in Ohio. Please pass SB 4 to add \$100M to the appropriations for the construction of classroom facilities in Ohio. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Rock", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Michael A. Rock, CPA  
CFO Treasurer Warrensville Heights CSD