



Minster Local Schools

Mission: Challenging Today's Students to Become Tomorrow's Leaders

Brenda Boeke
Superintendent

Laura Klosterman, CPA
Treasurer

Austin Kaylor
Principal 7-12

Leanne Keller
Principal K-6

Josh Clune
Director of
Student Services

Administrative Office
50 E. Seventh Street
Minster, OH 45865
419-628-3397
FAX 419-628-2482

Jr/Sr High School
100 E. Seventh Street
Minster, OH 45865
419-628-2324
FAX 419-628-2495

Elementary School
50 E. Seventh Street
Minster, OH 45865
419-628-4174
FAX 419-628-2482

Senate Education Committee
Senate Bill 388 Testimony
December 8, 2020

Chairman Lehner, Vice-Chairman Brenner, Ranking Minority Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee, my name is Brenda Boeke and I am the Superintendent of Minster Local Schools in Minster, Ohio. I am providing testimony in support of SB388, specifically asking for relief from the current requirements for hiring substitute teachers. First and foremost, I want to thank Senator Matt Huffman for sponsoring this emergency legislation as we are in a state of emergency when it comes to having substitute teachers in our buildings.

Minster Schools are in session five days a week with in person learning. The community and the Board of Education feel it is the right decision for our students. We have taken the precautions needed to keep our students from spreading the coronavirus and have seen no spread of the virus from student to student. We have unfortunately had ten staff members test positive because of being exposed in their communities. These absences on top of having four maternity/paternity extended absences and two staff members receiving cancer diagnoses, let alone the regular illnesses, have taken its toll on our substitute teacher pool. During the month of November, we were in session 18 days because of the holiday. Of those 18 days, 13 or 78% were days without enough subs in the building. We had two days when we were three subs short, seven days when we were two subs short and five days when we were one sub short. We had four days when we were fully staffed. When we have a classroom without a substitute, the students are either sent to study hall, if at the high school, other teachers cover the classrooms during their preparation times, and/or our principals and myself cover the classrooms. The continuity of learning is disrupted enough in any classroom when a substitute teacher is present, but when there is no substitute, there is no learning.

The current requirements in Ohio for obtaining a substitute teaching license begins with a four-year post-secondary degree and includes a criminal record check to show they do not have a record of disqualifying offense for school employment. I am in support of SB388 which would allow the local school district's board of education to determine the requirements for hiring a substitute teacher during the 2020-2021 school year. As stated in Senator Huffman's legislation, the criminal records check remains. If we were permitted the opportunity to hire non-four-year degreed substitutes, I believe I would be able to cover more of my classrooms. This request is not an absurd request in that in Indiana, individuals applying for substitute permits must:

1. Hold a high school diploma or high school equivalency certificate;
2. Be 18 years of age or older; and
3. Meet the requirements set forth in the screening process of the school employer.

I am asking for you to approve this legislation which would give our board of education the authority to hire substitutes based on the locally decided criteria. I have residents in my district who have obtained a high school diploma, have worked with children in their own homes for many years and are well respected in the community. I am confident these residents would be more than capable of managing a classroom in my district.

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony in support of SB388. Chairman Lehner, Vice-Chairman Brenner, Ranking Minority Member Fedor and members of the Senate Education Committee, I would be happy to entertain questions.

Sincerely,
Brenda Boeke
Superintendent, Minster Local Schools