

## **H.B. 442 testimony**

Janice Allen, Treasurer/CFO

[janiceallen@trotwood.k12.oh.us](mailto:janiceallen@trotwood.k12.oh.us)

(937) 854-3050 extension 1137

Good morning Mr. Rob McColley, Chair of the Senate Transportation Commerce and Workforce Committee and other members of this committee.

My name is Janice Allen, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer for the Trotwood-Madison City School District (TMCSO) where I have been employed since November 2011. I am responsible for a \$45M General Fund budget and a \$4M federal and state grant budget. Prior to coming to TMCSO, I spent 20 years with Dayton Public Schools, the last eight years as the Assistant Treasurer.

To say the least when I came in to work this morning I received a message from Katie Johnson from the Ohio Association of School Officials informing members about the amendment to H.B. 442 concerning the elimination of various state required licenses particularly school treasurer and business managers.

Being a steward of the public's hard-earned monies is very important to me. By having a license, it shows the competency of the holder which includes being familiar in the following areas: Financial Management (basic banking, investment, bonds and notes), fund accounting, financial reporting, purchasing and business functions, legal and legislation and administrative and other duties.

The word Chief Financial Officer has been added to the title of Treasurer because of the enormity of our roles. The law holds the Treasurer COMPLETELY PERSONALLY FINANCIALLY responsible for any over payments or any misappropriations of monies. This past year I had to personally pay the State of Ohio over \$7,000 due to an overpayment of two bus drivers. I felt it was not my fault but ultimately lost that battle with the State Auditor's Office.

This Treasurer license demonstrates that the persons holding these have no allegiance to any one party, have no self-interest, and are free of any ethics violations. State licenses are required by others that work in school districts i.e. Superintendent, teachers, paraprofessionals, coaches etc. Their licenses demonstrate that they have continually taken professional development to stay current in their professions and that they are well equipped to work in the ever-changing environment of a school district. The Treasurer's license indicates the same. The Treasurer is responsible for all of the district's resources not just monetarily but assets as well. This work is challenging and stressful, and should be reserved for those that have exhibited the correct skill sets.

I implore you to vote against this amendment because you would be during a disservice to all of your constituents that have entrusted the Treasurers/CFOs across the State of Ohio to make

sure that the resources the school districts receive through local real estate collections and from the State are being monitored by a well vetted, able, and a person of high integrity.

My contact information is above if you have any questions for me.

Thank you in advance for all of the work you to do for the residents of Ohio