

Proponent Testimony Regarding HB 334
Ohio House Primary & Secondary Education Committee

Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony today on House Bill (HB) 334. I am Dick Smith, Vice President and Legislative Liaison for the Marysville Exempted School District Board of Education.

I speak in support of House Bill 334, Regards school district board member compensation, training.

Completing my 8th year as a school board member, I can attest to the amount of time involved in being a good board member. This commitment requires attendance at workshops, training sessions and conferences. A good board member immerses themselves in the job without thought of financial compensation. Having said money is not the motivator, I will now say that being financially compensated provides support for family time outside of board activities. It also is a measure of respect for the role played by school board members in the community.

In comparison with other local elected officials to non-fulltime positions, school board compensation is very low. Currently, at \$125 per meeting, with a maximum of 24 meetings per year, I can be paid \$3,000. Marysville's City Council saw an increase from \$7920 per year to \$8,370 for the same number of meetings. For Township Trustees, the lowest paid, supervising a budget under \$250,000, is \$11,300. Our current budget is over \$60,000,000. A Township Trustee with a budget of \$10,000,000 + is paid in excess of \$32,000 per year.

HB 334 requires school board members to attend 9.75 hours of training. The bill requires that each school board member complete training on ethics, public records, and open meetings. Current law requires all elected officials or their appropriate designees to attend a three-hour training on public records during their term. As board members are not directly involved in storage of or fulfilling request for public records, Marysville's Board has appointed the treasurer to fulfill this training requirement. School board members are not currently required to attend trainings on open meetings laws or ethics. HB 334 could fill this void.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Smith
Marysville EVSD Board VP