



**Canal Winchester**  
LOCAL SCHOOLS

## **Board of Education**

100 Washington Street  
Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110  
P: (614) 837-4533 F: (614) 833-2165

Senate Education Committee  
Interested Party Testimony of Monika C. Talley  
Board Member, Canal Winchester Local Schools  
HB 96  
May 7, 2025

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, III, Ranking Member Ingram and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party testimony on HB 96 on behalf of the students, staff, and community that I proudly serve at the Board of Education for Canal Winchester Local Schools. My name is Monika Talley and I would like to express my deep concern for the House version of the proposed state budget, which I firmly believe will have detrimental effects on the very students, staff members, and taxpayers we aim to support.

If the House-passed state budget proposal were enacted, many school districts across Ohio could face significant cuts to student programs, special education services, transportation services, operational services, and more because it underfunds Ohio's public schools by \$2.75 billion in just two years. Essentially under this plan, schools would receive just 10% of the state funding that they actually need. Additionally, it would force schools to put a levy on the ballot sooner than expected because their proposed residual funding strategy has been proven in the past to not work for Ohio's schools and has been ruled as an unconstitutional methodology at least four times by the Ohio Supreme Court. Moreover, the House version undermines local school boards' authority to make decisions about school appropriations thus diminishing their ability to be responsive to the needs of members in their very own districts.

In Canal Winchester, we have worked effectively and strategically to build a balanced budget, maintain a healthy cash reserve, and have made smart investments in our schools without having to ask voters for more money. This has created stability and confidence in moving forward with major academic and educational improvements improving student achievement and outcomes. If the House version were enacted, it could disrupt our progress, reduce the funding our district receives and limit our ability to manage resources effectively.

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[www.cwschools.org](http://www.cwschools.org)

**Vangela Barnes**, *President*

**David George**, *Vice President*

**Chloe Green**, *Member*

**Adam Twiss**, *Member*

**Monika Talley**, *Member*

I implore you to keep the Cupp / Patterson Fair School Funding Plan, continue to phase-in funding under this formula because it uses actual data to calculate the cost to educate a child. The state has a mandate to efficiently fund public schools and the Fair School Funding Plan is evidence-based and is the better choice to support Ohio's schools.

I implore you to remove the cap on cash carryover provision because school districts have their own unique circumstances that a blanket percentage amount is not conducive to meeting each one's educational and operational needs. Local boards are responsible for determining their operating budget. Specifically, Canal Winchester's carryover balance enables us to maintain programs that support safety initiatives, mental health programs, career pathways, and early learning initiatives. It also enables us to secure strong bond ratings which makes borrowing more affordable.

I also implore you to invest in Ohio's public schools because approximately 90% of students in Ohio attend a public school; however, they receive less in funding than the 10% of students in the voucher program. The House budget allocates more new dollars to private school vouchers than to public schools. When you fund public education, you give our future workforce the best chance of thriving and being successful for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Monika C. Talley*

School Board Member

Canal Winchester Local Schools