



**Senator Bob Peterson – 17<sup>th</sup> District**

**Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee  
Senate Bill 240 – Sponsor Testimony  
November 9, 2021**

Chairman Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Fedor, and members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, thank you for hearing sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 240, which will enable Community School Networks to operate as a single organization with a single board of directors, and will provide multiple efficiencies and operating advantages. Current law requires separate boards for each school and charter management organizations, which creates parochial interests and inherent conflict. A single board of directors will align all of the adults, board, and staff to create a common focus on what is best for *all* of the students and *all* of the schools.

Simply reducing multiple boards to one eliminates redundant board meetings, saves a tremendous amount of time, and encourages consensus decision-making. The ability to have a single set of board and staff leaders oversee multiple schools simplifies operations, creates efficient common practices with corresponding cost savings, and enables innovations and best practices from any of the schools to be quickly disseminated across all schools. Professional development for both principals and teachers also becomes more efficient and impactful.

The Community School Network creates important flexibility to direct resources where they are most needed. For example, the ability to move key staff members to the schools that need them most enables the Community School Network to address academic or operating challenges as they arise. Similarly, the flexibility to reallocate funds enables the Community School Network to support any school with extra academic resources when needed, address unexpected maintenance, or repair issues that arise.

A further advantage of the Community School Network is that it actually provides more accountability and transparency. Under the proposed construct, the network will receive an overall report card and each school within the network will also receive a report card on its academic performance. Moreover, as a public, non-profit entity, the Community School Network's finances will be fully open and transparent.

In summary, the Community School Network will provide operating efficiencies and savings, enhanced accountability and transparency, and most importantly, a more aligned approach to academic programming, staffing, and professional training that will enhance the education for

students. Currently, among schools that are supportive of this concept are KIPP Columbus, The Graham School, Dayton Early Learning Academy (DECA), and the United Schools Network. Mr. Chairman, for these reasons I urge favorable consideration of Senate Bill 240, and thank you for this opportunity to give sponsor testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions you have at this time.