Senate Testimony 5-29-19

Please keep the language of HB 154 in the proposed budget. Please pass HB 166 so we can go back to local control.

These past 2 years have been a disaster for students, parents, the community and teachers at LCS. I have had several students from my previous classes leave the district because of its inorganization. I have been a teacher in this district for 5 years and also by choice did 2 years of student teaching. This past year has by far been the most unorganized, stressful and sad year in the district for many of the teachers and staff. Personally, I had a growing and developing year with curriculum, new rules, and not enough training. As a teacher organization is a must and if your administration above you is still struggling to figure out what to do this spills down into the classrooms, community and teacher moral. Confusion and un-organization are the two words that come to my mind when I sum up these past 2 years. New grading system, new behavior management system, new administrators, and not much professional development or teacher input with these new programs and people. The report cards were late going home each quarter with many errors. I came to Lorain because of the FAMILY atmosphere and now it seems to have gone away, it is the CEO and then US! Last Wednesday I got a letter from Lakimbra Brown who works for Hardy that they have decided not to renew my contract for next year. The reason the principal Lori Witt gave me was “We appreciate everything you have done, going to all of the coaching meetings and trying your best at doing what was asked of you, but we have decided not to renew your contract!” I was absolutely shocked considering everything I have done this year. I am a BR for our union and was very happy to do so, this may have been the main reason that myself and others were let go. It couldn’t have been that I got skilled on my final evaluation, my class passed the CEO’s district opinion writing SLO, passed my state RESA, even filled out paperwork for my principal to sign for tenure. Not to mention that we were given new curriculum in January without training and having to implement it in the classroom, taking half of another first grade class because a first-grade teacher resigned, and a letter of intent to teach kindergarten next year from my principal Lori Witt. Asking myself everyday why me, trying not to take it personally everyone says but I do! I have never had any issues with my deans and principal, I really thought they liked me as a person and as a great addition to the staff, but I guess I was wrong. Being a teacher is so much more than we seem to get credit for, it is about making an impact on a child’s life, getting to know your families, trust and helping our students grow as individuals! How are we going to do all of this if it doesn’t come from the top! My dad, a retired admisistrator always had a saying for schools, the principal makes the building! In this case the CEO makes the district and it is upside down.

When talking to my fellow Lorain teachers I would ask them why me, why did this happen? I have decided this happened to help my fellow teachers have a voice and to set things straight about how hard we work even if we are given obstacles to overcome. I am a Titan and always will be one but what happened to myself and other teachers is absolutely unethical and needs to be stopped. I want my job back along with all of the other teachers! I was under the impression that the CEO was to stick to our contract but now I am aware that he has made up his own contract rules. According to our contract you have to be ineffective for a certain amount of time to be up non-renewal but not according to the CEO. Being a BR, being skilled and passed his district SLO is how to get fired in his version of the contract. No one person should have this much control over a district. Who does he answer to? Who is his boss? Does he have rules? I thought we were all on the same TITAN TEAM, but I now believe firsthand Hardy is on his own team defiantly not THE TITAN TEAM!

Mistruths- Many mistruths have been spoken by our CEO- teachers miss an average of 18.9 days a year. Not true. Teachers wanted/requested the monthly Tuesday early dismissals, very early- 10:30 a.m. for our students, for professional development. No, we certainly did not ask for more PD and less time with our students.

Please pass HB 166 and keep the HB 154 language in it so we can start planning for a successful ’19 –’20 school year. WE as educators desire to work with parents, students and community members, the BOE and a new superintendant to truly make LCS a winning school district. Time is of the upmost importance - please help our community, students, and parents and pass HB 166.

Sincerely- Margaret Krausher previous teacher but always will be a TITAN!