

From: [Lisa Durgin](#)
To: [Interim Education](#)
Subject: Comment on Discussion Concerning the Composition and Selection of School Boards
Date: Monday, August 8, 2022 3:06:26 PM

Good afternoon,

I will be unable to listen in to tomorrow's meeting scheduled for discussion "Concerning the Composition and Selection of School Boards" by your committee. I would like to offer my public comment on the subject for consideration as you formulate any recommendations to the legislature or anyone else reviewing this topic.

I very strongly believe that school board members should be elected by the members of their own communities and not appointed by political representatives. Parents of school-age children and local community members are the ones who have the most vested interest in the makeup of our school boards. Therefore, they should be the ones to decide who is qualified to represent the needs of the community's children on the school board. Turning the school board position into a political appointment will not guarantee more qualified individuals for the job - it will simply ensure that board members will serve the political will of who appoints them. That model is too susceptible to influences that conflict with the will and needs of the community, and does nothing to ensure that a candidate has better qualifications or will do a better job. Political appointments are rife with cronyism, favors, and agendas that have nothing to do with the needs of the community's children. The voters in the community have the ability to sort through the candidates and make a decision as to who they feel is best qualified to represent their district. That is how the process should continue to work in order to maintain a fair balance of ideas and values and to ensure the public's faith in the school board. I urge you to dismiss any proposals that include appointing school board members rather than electing them.

Thank you,
Lisa Durgin
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