

Testimony for SB394 (1).Kaufmanmassp.pdf

Uploaded by: Adrian "Addie" Kaufman

Position: FAV



The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP)
Dr. Adrienne “Addie” Kaufman, Executive Director
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BILL: SB394
TITLE: State Board of Education – Membership – School Principal
DATE: March 1, 2023
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
CONTACT: Adrienne “Addie” Kaufman, Executive Director, MASSP

Good afternoon. My name is Addie Kaufman; I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals. After 36 years in education as a teacher and administrator, I retired from the principalship and accepted the position with MASSP.

The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP), on behalf of school-based administrators in all twenty-four school districts supports Senate Bill 394. This bill will expand the State Board of Education to include a school principal. MASSP applauds past legislation, which added a student, and more recently a teacher, and parent representative to the State Board, and MASSP supported those additions. It is now time to add a school principal to the State Board.

A school principal leads the ENTIRE school community including parents, teachers, staff, and students. Principals are responsible for the overall operation of the school, which includes instructional programming, continuous improvement, financial operations, building maintenance, student scheduling, staff hiring, discipline, coordination between central office and school staff, and much more. Students, teachers, and parents bring their perspectives to discussions around policy, regulations, and guidelines while principals would bring a much broader perspective. Principals are instructional, transformational, and school reform leaders; they are not simply

managers. Implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future will be the responsibility of school principals who will work with all other stakeholders in the school community. Having the voice of school principals on the State Board of Education is imperative and inclusive. Students, staff, and parents all collaborate, work with, and report to the school principal, yet this important voice is currently missing.

Schools do not function as a triangle of students, staff, and parents alone. They function as a circle with students, staff, parents, and administrators working together for continuous improvement and student achievement.

MASSP strongly encourages the addition of a school principal to the Maryland State Board of Education. This addition is a meaningful way to ensure that school principals not only have a seat at the table but have a voice as policies are created and revised.

MASSP applauds this legislation's recognition of the important role school principals play in school and student success.

For these reasons, MASSP supports Senate Bill 394 and urges a favorable outcome.

SB 394_ State Board of Education - Membership - Sc

Uploaded by: Alexa Thomas

Position: FAV



PSSAM
Public School Superintendents' Association
OF MARYLAND

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BILL: SB 394
TITLE: State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal
DATE: March 1, 2023
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment
CONTACT: Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 394.

House Bill 394 would add an active, certified principal to the Maryland State Board of Education (MSDE). This bill would require a state-wide election to be held for all active and certified principals in the State, as well as require that the principal member who receives the highest number of votes be appointed to the vacancy by the Governor. Additionally, House Bill 394 provides parameters for the voting capacity and term length of the principal member.

PSSAM appreciates the goal of this legislation to allow for the appointment of a principal member to the Maryland State Board of Education. Maryland's superintendents have found value in adequate representation of other populations through elections and appointments to the State Board, such as teacher and student members. PSSAM sees the language of this legislation as a natural extension of these populations, as well as a vehicle for adequate representation of school leadership on the Maryland State Board of Education, which is essential for equitable outcomes in education.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 394 and urges a favorable committee report.

Arienne Clark-Harrison SB394 Testimony (Mar. 1, 20

Uploaded by: Arienne Clark-Harrison

Position: FAV



Montgomery Knolls Elementary School

“Where Learning is Magic”

807 Daleview Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20901

(240) 740-0840

Office of the Principal

Name: Arienne Clark-Harrison

Senate Bill: SB394 - Adding a Principal to the Maryland State Board of Education

Position: Support

Dear Senator Kramer and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment (EEE) Committee -

My name is Arienne Clark-Harrison and I am honored to be here today representing Montgomery County Public Schools Principal's voice. I testify here today as a veteran educator with 25 years in education as an assistant teacher, classroom teacher, assistant principal, and principal. I have served Montgomery County Public Schools for the last 15 years, the last 7 of which has been as the Principal of Montgomery Knolls Elementary School. I serve on the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals (MCAAP) Board of Directors as the Elementary Cabinet Vice Chair. I am also a member of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. I proudly reside in Wheaton, MD in Montgomery County with my husband. I have been a Maryland resident since 2002. I am here in support of senate bill 394 to include a sitting principal on the Maryland State Board of Education.

As we enter the implementation phase of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, bringing to fruition "the transformation of public education...into a world-class education system", it is critical that ALL voices critical to this work and its imperative success have a designated seat at the table. I am proud that teacher voices, students voices, and parent voices are included on the Maryland State Board of Education. They are crucial stakeholders that must be heard. Yet, I am curious as to why the principal's perspective has yet to be added to this list. Much like the other stakeholders who hold a seat on the Board, principals serve as "boots on the ground" advocates who integrally know what is required to ensure that schools are high-functioning organizations that are focused on teaching and learning. Yet, unlike the other stakeholders, principals bring a broader perspective, the "big picture" if you will, of what it takes to ensure that schools have the resources that they need - finances, staffing, curricular materials, building operations, safety and security protocols - to ensure that teachers can focus on teaching and learning, to ensure that parents feel secure in trusting schools with their most precious resources (our students), as well as ensuring that students receive a world class education.

With the changing social pressures that our children face - the negative impacts of social media, increased access and abuse of legal and illegal substances, and mental health and well-being needs - as well as the continued academic recovery from disruptions caused by the pandemic, our schools are central to addressing societal needs and Principals are on the front line of understanding the impacts on our children and proactively leading communities through these tough situations. With frontline knowledge and experience in addressing these challenges and the big picture of how schools operate, Principals are key community leaders who provide both insight and innovative solutions. As a principal, my role has always been to "improve the quality of education for all children in Maryland, especially those who have been historically underserved," as stated on MSDE's website for the Blueprint of Maryland. Principals seek to be a part of the solution, and yet their voices are not included on the Maryland State Board of Education. At least not yet? Why should there not be a seat for this critical stakeholder?



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Office of the Principal

Therefore, I urge you to support senate bill 394 and ensure that the principal's unique perspective is elevated to the Maryland State Board of Education.

Treft testimony March 1, 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Charles Treft

Position: FAV



"Striving for Excellence!"

March 1, 2023

Reference: SB394

Good afternoon! I am Charles Treft the principal of Mt. Harmony Elementary School, a two-time National Blue-Ribbon school, located in Owings, MD and a member of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. I want to express my sincerest appreciation to Senator Ben Kramer for sponsoring Senate Bill 394 which proposes the addition of a school principal to the MD State Board of Education. I have been an educator for the past 27 years, the last 10 years as a school principal. I am also proud to have served my country in the USMC with the 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, as well as, having served as a deputy sheriff for 7 years.

Principals have huge daily responsibilities. Some of those responsibilities include ensuring the safety of all students, creating a positive culture and climate in schools where all students can be successful, setting high expectations for student achievement, and collaborating with all stakeholders who have a vested interest in the school. In addition to these responsibilities, school principals will be actively involved in the implementation of the MD Blueprint which is neither small in scope or cost.

So, why should a school principal be on the State Board of Education? The MD State Board of Education website states that it is committed to the transformative path forward in support of every MD student. Building principals create that transformative path for students in their schools every day by thinking critically, strategically, and globally. Principals understand how real-world events have negative or positive consequences on students, teachers, and the community. Principals also have a first-hand knowledge of what works and doesn't work in our MD schools. The addition of a school principal to the State Board of Education will be invaluable as we strategically evaluate and implement initiatives to ensure the success of all students.

I strongly urge the bipartisan support of SB394.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Treft", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles Treft

Principal, Mt. Harmony Elementary School

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SB394 Testimony from ECosentino.pdf

Uploaded by: Edward Cosentino

Position: FAV



CLEMENS CROSSING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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BILL: SB394
TITLE: State Board of Education Principal Membership
DATE: February 28, 2023
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and Environment

I am the principal at Clemens Crossing Elementary School in Howard County. I represent principal associations on the local, state, and national levels. I have been active with the Howard County Association of Supervisors and Administrators for twenty years, serving four years as the president and currently serving as the secretary. I am also the past president of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. I currently serve as a director on the National Association of Elementary School Principals, serving Maryland and four other states. I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 394, which would add a principal to the Maryland State Board of Education.

My involvement with my local, state, and national principals associations has allowed me to share insight and perspectives of what goes on in the schoolhouse with lawmakers in Washington, D.C., and Annapolis. Often, well-intended legislation gets pushed through the government. In some cases, when the legislation is passed, the implementation of that legislation creates unintended consequences and obstacles that make the principal's job of running a school more challenging. Those obstacles could be avoided if principals were part of the conversation. Including a principal on the Maryland State Board of Education is a natural and proactive way to hear and understand the perspective of school administrators in the decision-making process. With the passage and implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future implementation underway, it is essential to have a principal's perspective at the board table along with the teacher, student, and parent voice. Since the passage of the Blueprint legislation, principals are voicing concerns about the details and logistics of the Blueprint implementation. I believe it is essential to have a principal's voice on the Maryland State Board of Education to share firsthand the role of school-based leaders. That perspective, input, and voice can only support the success of the State Board of Education as it works to ensure administrator effectiveness and increase partnerships with all stakeholders.

On behalf of the principals and assistant principals in the 1,400 schools in Maryland, I would like to thank you for your time. I also want to acknowledge Senator Ben Kramer for sponsoring this bill. I encourage you to pass this legislation to strengthen the work of the State Board of Education by including a principal as part of that governing body. Again, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Cosentino".

Edward Cosentino,
Principal

Testimony_SB394MAESP_TBall.pdf

Uploaded by: Theresa Ball

Position: FAV



MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Theresa L. Ball, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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BILL: SB394
TITLE: State Board of Education Principal
DATE: Membership March 1, 2023
POSITION: Support
COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and Environment

Good afternoon, Committee Chair, Committee Vice-Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Theresa “Terry” Ball, and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals. As a retired principal with over 40 years in education, and as the representative of the MAESP Executive Board, I am here to support Senate Bill 394 which would add an acting principal as a member to the Maryland State Board of Education. This would signify to all of Maryland’s school principals that their voice matters and will be heard as they work to ensure students receive a high-quality education regardless of their learning setting.

Principals and school leaders matter and are essential to the success of their staffs, students and learning communities. As a member representative of those school leaders Pre-K to 12, the principal state board member would be able to express the reality of implementing board policies and legislation on an experiential level.

The Maryland State Board of Education’s mission is to ‘provide leadership, set policy, and advocate for continuous improvement of Maryland’s educational system’. The board’s mission can best be accomplished by the engagement of *all* stakeholders including principals. The teacher, student and parent voices on the board give perspective but without the principal voice it is just perception.

I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his work in sponsoring SB394 and thank each of you for your consideration. Passing SB 394 supports the State Board of Education in seeking stakeholder engagement and support. This will allow principals to give voice and perspective to discussion, planning and implementation of policy.

For these reasons, the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) strongly supports SB394.

Theresa “Terry” L. Ball

SB394_MSEA_Lamb_FWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Lamb

Position: FWA

**Testimony in Support with Amendments to Senate Bill 394
State Board of Education - Membership - School Principal**

**Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
March 1, 2023**

**Lauren Lamb
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports, with amendments, Senate Bill 394, which would alter the membership of the State Board of Education to include a school principal as a member and provide for the initial term of the principal member of the State Board.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Including a teacher and principal on the State Board of Education provides valuable insight into the daily operations and needs of Maryland's schools. However, we continue to lack the perspective of a non-supervisory, non-certificated education support professional, such as a paraeducator, interpreter, food service staff member, school nurse, or one of the many other roles that keep our schools functioning. Such a member would bring a unique and essential perspective to the State Board's role in the oversight and regulation of education policy.

We therefore urge an amendment to add an elected non-supervisory education support professional to the State Board with the same voting rights and restrictions as the teacher member and principal member. The education support professional member should be elected in a manner and to a term comparable to the teacher member, with voting made available to all non-supervisory, non-certificated school employees in the state.



With the inclusion of the proposed amendment, we urge the Committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 394.