



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