



"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

900 W. Mt. Harmony Road
Owings, Maryland 20736
443-550-9620 FAX 410-286-4017