

Dear Legislators:

I am writing you to testify in opposition of HB 2345. I am currently the President of the USD 313 Buhler Board of Education. I have served the district for 5 1/2 years now. With passage of this bill I would have a tough decision to make – I am currently the vendor of the schools travel groups. So I would be forced to give up one or the other. If I give up doing the schools travel groups it would end up costing the students more to do these trips as I do it for minimal profit because I love my district and feel the kids deserve these educational opportunities to see areas of the country they might not otherwise see in their life time. We have two other board members who are vendors to the district and they too do things at a reduced cost due to their love of the district. We have to abide by the state bidding processes so I really feel this covers any improprieties in awarding things to a favorite vendor.

Our board consists of 7 board members, 5 of these members have relatives who work for 313 or another district. One works part time for another district and I am a vendor. So all 7 of our board members would become ineligible. This April we have 4 positions up for election. The only people who filed were the incumbents and some of them in the last few days because no one was running. This is a nonpaying difficult job that not many people want to do. People have to have a love of education and kids to be a school board member due to the time commitment for no pay. Isn't that who we want in these jobs? We are a 4A school who has trouble having people to serve – what are the schools out west going to do. In many of these communities the district is the biggest employer.

To me this bill makes no sense. It is trying to fix something that isn't broken. I urge you to vote no on HB 2345. Thank you for your time and service to our state.

Laura Meyer Dick
USD 313 Buhler Board of Education
President