



Testimony before the
House Education Committee
On
SB 47

Requiring school districts to publicly list the names and email addresses of current school board members, authorizing local school boards members to add new items to board meeting discussions, ask questions or engage in discussion with members of the public and access school property, authorizing members of the public to address school boards at board meetings and authorizing payment of annual dues to any not-for-profit organization that provides services to member school districts.

by
By Jim Karleskint, United School Administrators
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Chair Estes and members of the Senate Education committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present opposition testimony on SB 47. USA Kansas appears in opposed on this legislation.

- The provisions in SB 47 violate local school boards' rights to oversee their districts by imposing unnecessary and disruptive procedures.
- This bill imposes meeting requirements on local boards of education that go beyond what is required of other public groups.
- The requirements in this bill goes beyond what is imposed upon other public legislative bodies to include the Kansas Legislature.
- This bill would allow a single board member the unlimited right to place new items on a board meeting agenda at any time. Currently a new item is added to the agenda when a request is made, the request is seconded and a majority of the board votes to add the item. This provision has the potential to erode the trust in the boards due to lack of transparency.
- School districts in Kansas already have policies in place for rules of order, public participation, and public hearings. The provisions in this bill usurps local control.
- The bill requires that board member emails be disclosed and publicized. The are cyber security issues with this provision.

- The bill provides for board members be given unlimited access to school district property any time the building is open. The right is currently given to the board as a whole not an individual member.

For these reasons United School Administrators of Kansas respectfully request that you not pass SB 47 out of committee.