



Kansas PTA
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Opponent, Written Only Testimony of [Senate Bill 47](#)
for the Senate Education Committee
for Hearing on **February 11, 2025**
Denise Sultz
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Room 445-S, State Capitol Building

Opposed to [Senate Bill 47](#) – Requiring school districts to publicly list the names and email addresses of current school board members, authorizing local school board 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.
Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 1:30 PM Room 144-S

Honorable Chair Erickson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to the proposed statutory changes noted in SB 47, overstepping on the local control of thousands of locally elected school board members.

Kansas PTA recognizes the unique roles and authority of the educational entities identified in the Kansas constitution. We find that this bill interferes with the interests and local control of freely elected school boards. The first legislative priority of the [Kansas PTA Legislative Platform](#) includes acknowledgment of local control. Kansas PTA supports efforts to preserve the wisdom of the Kansas Constitution.

- This includes Article VI, regarding public education, to protect non-partisan elections of local school board members and their local control, to hold legislators' accountable for their obligation to provide suitable finance for ongoing educational improvement, as well as State Board of Education oversight of state education standards and accreditations.

Kansas PTA has the following specific concerns, regarding proposed changed to current statute:

Section 1 (4). Each board shall list the current members of the board of education of such school district and an email address for each such board member on the website of the school district. Each school district shall send the list of current members and the members' email addresses to the state department of education and shall update such information each time a new board member takes office or when any change to such information occurs.

- Local school districts provide name and contact information for their district’s parents, staff, and patrons. Local districts may also choose to share this information with their preferred professional association(s). Does this proposed state mandate to gather municipal data extend to all locally elected city council members and county commissioners? Who is requesting this mandate? And why?

Section 1 (5). *Any member of a board may: (A) Add discussion items under the category of new business at any school board meeting; and (B) ask questions or otherwise engage in discussion with any member of the public addressing the board at a school board meeting.*

- Parents and patrons elect their local school board members to best meet the needs of their local school community. The process for running local school board meetings and developing meeting agenda is the sole responsibility of those locally elected members. Would members of this Senate Education Committee stand for our 6 U.S. elected members of Congress to dictate statehouse committee rules or to allow any member of the Senate Education Committee to engage in discussion with any conferee at any time during a meeting, without consent of the Committee Chair?

Section 1. (6) *Each meeting held by a board of education of a school district, including any meeting that is held virtually, shall include time for a public comment portion of the meeting. Members of the public may address the board at regular school board meetings.*

- Again, would this committee allow any member of the public to address the committee at any regular meeting, regardless of whether a hearing was on the agenda – just because they were in the room or requested a remote link?

Section 3. (b) *Members of the school board may access school district property, including any school buildings and attendance centers, during school hours or when there are school or community activities on such property.*

- Parents expect our educational professionals to prepare our children to be ready for college, career and civic engagement. Parents entrust our elected school board members to provide oversight. In other words, school boards govern and have one employee – the superintendent. The superintendent manages all district employees to implement the daily activities.

We urge the committee to vote NO on SB 47.

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THE PTA POSITION

Kansas PTA is a nonpartisan association that promotes the welfare of children and youth. The PTA does not endorse any candidate or political party. Rather, we advocate for policies and legislation that affect Kansas youth in alignment with our legislative platform and priorities. [PTA mission and purpose](#) have remained the same since our inception over 100 years ago, focused on facilitating every child’s potential and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.