



St. Paul School District No. 45

Proud History, Cultivating the Future

Our mission is to provide a progressive learning environment for all students to achieve by the objectives and principles outlined in the St. Paul Brand.

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February 27, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 292-1

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The St Paul School District Board of Directors has a high level of concern related to the requirements set forth under House Bill 4114 (2022) which requires “ Every member of the district school board of a common school district or union high school district” to file a statement of economic interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

As Board members we volunteer our time to serve our local schools and our community. We believe a requirement of this nature is an invasion of our personal privacy, especially for those of us who serve in small communities. It is already difficult to fill board positions in many small communities and we believe a requirement of this nature will cause some of our valued board members to resign and will in the future discourage others from seeking out these critically important publicly elected positions.

Our district continues to strive for excellence and as Board Members we work hard to plan strategically, use data driven decisions and require our administration to consider equity in all decisions made at the district level. Senate Bill 4114 could drastically impact the progress we have made after returning to school following the Covid disruption.

We unanimously support the attempt to support small district boards as set forth in Senate Bill 292-1 which would eliminate this requirement for board members who serve in districts with an average daily membership of less than 1,650 students. Our board fully supports this Bill and urges the legislature to enact these changes prior to the April 15th deadline to prevent any unfortunate resignations by board members in our district and to prevent creating even more difficulty in filling these positions in the future.

Sincerely,

St Paul School District Board of Directors