

Submitter: Timothy Fain  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1502

Thank you so much for considering SB 1502 as proposed by Senator Wagner.

I am a newly elected school board member in our district at Dufur School District #29 with an enrollment of about 350 students. Though, I have volunteered in the school district for 16+ years. I also have a 5th grader and a freshman in the school.

We are a rural town with a small population of 600 or so residents (city limits). However, our district boundaries cover a large area of farmland. The vastness of our district as well as busy families having to travel for various activities makes it difficult to attend in-person meetings. Therefore, I believe having streamed and posted videos of the meetings would be a great benefit to our community.

I'll fill you in about our situation:

1. We already stream the meetings via google meet. Constituents have to go to our district website, find the link, and navigate to google meet. Once the streaming is done it is not archived anywhere. So, we already have the infrastructure to stream.
2. I urged the board to archive video on YouTube and there were concerns about cost, time spent doing it, and the wonder of someone being able to use the board's words as fodder for controversy.
3. I explained to the board that we already stream and that via google meet we can just press a button to archive to video. There is no extra cost, no extra time for staff, and it allows those who couldn't make it during that one specific time period the ability to know the thought process of the whole board. That way the public is not just dependent on the minutes. Minutes only show the result of the dialogue and not the thought process to get to the decision. Also, recording by the public is covered under the first amendment and the public could record the stream and post the stream.
4. I've had an overwhelming majority (I'd say 95%) of constituents say that they would utilize archiving to watch the meeting in order to be more informed and to see their elected officials "in action".

For a small district I can promise you that:

1. It's no extra cost to us. We already stream via the internet.
2. For a small district we have the infrastructure to implement SB 1502. And as a quip: anyone with a cell phone has the infrastructure. It's not that difficult.
3. It would garner good will and trust among our community.
4. There should be no hesitancy from elected officials for the public to see what they

are talking about unless it falls into the category of executive session.

I urge you to vote for, enact, or otherwise put into legislation SB 1502. While I know some people won't like being on video it will provide more transparency and trust in our district.

Thank you,

Tim Fain  
Dufur District #29 Board Position 2