

To: Lance A. Mizumoto

Chairperson, Board of Education

And members of the Board

From: Susan A. Pcola-Davis

Date: 12 February 2018

Subject: Testimony on Board Agenda Item C. My comments are in red

Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 92-2.5(b)(1)) investigating public engagement, strategic focus on priorities, and meeting efficiency and preparation: findings and recommendations.

Public Engagement. The Committee focused primarily on improving the Board's access and transparency to engage the public better. Specifically, the Committee recommends that the Board do the following:

- Evening meetings provide access to Board general business meetings to those who may otherwise be unable to attend during regular business hours.

Agree

- Continue to strive to make all meeting materials available online when the Board posts its agendas. Having meeting materials available with the agendas not only provides more transparency but also offers an opportunity for the public to better inform itself on topics for discussion, which in turn encourages more informed and relevant public input.

Currently input is received via email or being present at the meeting.

- Explore opportunities for dialogue with stakeholders on agenda items during standing committee meetings. Opportunities for public testimony provide some level of access to the Board, but the Committee believes that expanding access by shifting from a process that simply collects public feedback to one that invites a conversation (in certain circumstance and at the committee chairperson's discretion) will create a better understanding of the opinions of stakeholders and encourage richer dialogue.

Opportunities for dialogue already exist in technology. Setting up and on-line meetings where the public can ask questions, provide feedback on agenda items, and vocally engage the committee will extremely enhance public participation. It will be two-way communication.

While improving the Board's access and transparency, particularly as it relates to its public meetings, will also improve public engagement, the Committee acknowledges that there is more to citizen engagement and participation than the public meeting process.

Access to the General Board meeting using technology with two-way dialogue will draw the public in. Currently written testimony is limited to items on the agenda. Public input into the creation of the agenda will also engage us. Many written testimonies are not even verbally acknowledged. Those that have written them have put time and effort to get a message across. It seems that the only way to get recognized is through attendance at the meeting. Now that the meetings will be held in the evening, more public testimony will occur. However, the meetings will be longer. Maybe not at first, but as soon as there is a way to participate and not leave our homes, engagement will increase.

Therefore, in addition to the recommendations above, the Committee recommends that the Board direct the Board Support Office to research and analyze ways for improving the Board's public engagement beyond Board business meetings.

On-line meetings are the only way to go. Public will participate if they can speak.

Late Testimony

To: Chair Lance A. Mizumoto and members of the Hawaii Board of Education

From: Amy Monk, Commissioner, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Date: 14 February 2018

Subject: Testimony on Board Agenda Item B.5 for BOE meeting 15 February, 2018

I commend the Board of Education on developing a policy to prohibit harassment/bullying of students in the discriminated classes described in Policy 305-10.

I note that girls continue to be discriminated in education and later as women in employment. While there has been much improvement since the 1972 passage of Title IX, there continues to be discrimination in our schools.

The addition of female students to the discriminated classes in this policy would bring the policy into conformance with Federal law and also recognize that we have not yet reached full equality in our society.