

SB 427 Proponent Testimony – in person  
Senate Education Committee  
Vanessa Reid  
March 13, 2024

Madam Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 427. I am a school board member at USD 453 Leavenworth.

My district publishes an email address for parents can reach me, and I think this is good policy that every district should follow.

It can be very challenging to have board discussions on issues that my constituents find important, because board policy prevents me from adding an agenda item during or before the meeting without majority approval. I believe that is not in voters' best interests.

We are told that we should not have any verbal or physical reaction during the public comment period of board meetings, and that is absurd. It sends a bad message to parents. Board meetings are held in public for a reason and we should not be prevented from engaging with concerned citizens.

My district also will not allow me to visit schools whenever I wish. I need to be able to make unannounced visits to follow up on concerns from parents or staff, or just to see how things are going. I shouldn't have to have a chaperone, either; that prevents staff from speaking to me candidly.

SB 427 is important legislation to help board members effectively represent the people who elect us.

Thank you for your consideration.