

4/27/2015

TO: Senate Education Committee

FROM: James E. Thelander PhD
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SUBJECT: SB 103 Performance evaluation requirements for teachers and school administrators; revise.

This note I believe, is necessary to point out that Senator Pavlov and others seem to have nothing better to do than to run rough shod over dedicated public servants. This bill is yet another classic waste of time, in the new and or modified requirements, causes dedicated educators to jump through some more unnecessary HOOPS. A classic example of more wasteful and unnecessary micro-management.

Does anyone on the committee know how demoralizing this classic, over the top "oversight" causes. Not to mention the time that has to be expended by administrators and staff to make sure that they are complying to the letter of these articles of yet another Lansing "edict". I think it is nothing short of harassment. The students of Michigan Public Schools would be better served if teachers had more time to prepare, teach, and grade papers. They would have more time to write grants for their classes to get needed dollars for special experiences for which there is no other financial avenue.

All the Senator has done is to create an oppressive atmosphere for teachers and administrators. Students would be better served if Senator Pavlov found dollars for classroom grants, supplies, up-to-date-texts, etc. A lot of teachers still buy supplies out of their own pocket. There is something wrong with that picture. Adequate funding, that is the job of the Michigan Legislature.

I suggest that Senator Pavlov and his like minded colleagues find a better, less oppressive path to increasing success in the schools. Like mandating students come prepared to class, that they do their homework, that their parents support those efforts, that they get to school on time, or at all. Getting rid of superfluous requirements such as foreign language, which impedes students taking skills classes, that will impact their future, would be great for the vast majority of students. My former students run the gamete from electricians with their own business, technicians, engineers, doctors, and one with a double PhD in physics from U of M.

SB 103 does more to negate or impede a good education, than it does to promote it. Teachers and administrators do not need an oppressive atmosphere, which I believe SB 103 promotes.

Try working with, rather than at educators. Put your gripes with the MEA aside.

Lastly, who would want to become a teacher in Michigan with all the turmoil and angst YOU create, at the behest of your Grand Rapids donors??

As side note, my youngest son called be several years ago and said "Dad, I can't afford to become a teacher. I have a job offer at \$66,000. That would be vs. mid-thirties for teachers at the time. What do you get for half price?

I apologize for not appearing on this issue today. I just had open heart surgery and have some temporary travel restrictions.