

# **Board Testimony: Keep Schools Focused on Education**

Good evening Chair and members of the board,

I am here tonight as a parent and community member who cares deeply about our students and our schools.

I want to speak about a growing concern many families share: the increasing involvement of schools in political activism, even among middle school students.

Schools have an important mission — to educate. Parents trust schools to teach reading, writing, math, science, and civics. They do not expect schools to guide children toward political protests or political causes.

Middle school students cannot vote, cannot make legal decisions, and are still developing judgment and critical thinking skills. That is why parents are responsible for guiding children through political and moral issues.

When schools organize or promote political activities, they step beyond education and into advocacy. That risks putting schools in conflict with family values and community expectations.

At the same time, academic performance remains a real challenge. Reading and math proficiency remain below where families and educators want them to be. Every hour of instructional time matters.

Parents are not asking schools to avoid civics. We want strong civic education that teaches how government works and how to evaluate issues from multiple viewpoints.

But there is a difference between teaching civics and encouraging activism. One builds knowledge; the other can influence beliefs before students are ready to form their own opinions.

Many parents simply want transparency. They want to know what activities are happening, what materials are used, and how decisions are made.

I respectfully ask the board to keep the focus on academics, maintain viewpoint neutrality, and ensure parents are informed partners in their children's education.

Strong schools and strong families work together. Trust grows when schools stay focused on their core mission.

Please keep our classrooms focused on learning and leave political decisions to families.

Thank you for your time and your service to our students.