

Office of the Superintendent



November 28, 2018

**Students First: Inspire,
Educate, Celebrate**

Glenn M. Maleyko, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Greetings Chairman Tim Kelly and Members of the Michigan House of Education Reform Committee:

I am writing in response to legislative items that are being proposed in the lame duck Michigan Legislature. I know that we have also communicated on the issues via phone, email and/or text. I am not in favor of passing any legislation through lame duck that does not go through the normal legislative process with discussion and committee input. It is evident to me that any proposed bills rushed through during a lame duck session does not provide enough time for the public and other legislators to properly be informed about the pending legislation. The process is flawed, not transparent, and potentially deceptive with hidden items that could negatively affect schools, children, and the public in general.

In addition, I feel it is important to document my opposition to potential legislation that would have a negative impact on the school district and students. We discussed some of this during my visit to Lansing on November 28 with Dearborn School Board President Dr. Meade and the Henry Ford College President Mr. Kavalhuna. Several Superintendents and Board of Education members were also at that event from the Tri-County Alliance for Public Education.

I fully welcome and embrace accountability. However, I oppose the A - F (flawed) grading system that is currently being proposed as it would once again change the model and most likely lead to the scrapping of the current accountability system. That system along with the accountability assessments have been changed numerous times over the last several years. It is very difficult for school districts to use the system in a positive manner to help our students when it continues to be a moving target.

I also oppose SB 795, SB 796, HB 5368, and HB 6474 that would take away the ability for Union Presidents to be part of the retirement system. Christine Sipperley is a full-time teacher who receives release time as the President of the Dearborn Federation of Teachers (DFT). In addition, Mr. Alfred Lerini is a full time Building Operations Specialist who receives release time to support the Dearborn Federation of School Employees (DFSE). It is not fair to take away their right to retirement benefits when they are providing a positive service to our school district and our students.

In Dearborn, we have a positive relationship with our unions and have worked collaboratively in an interest based philosophy in order to provide a high quality of education for our students. The union presidents help to implement several important processes in the school district including the Strategic Plan, Continuous Process Improvement (CPI), Professional Development, the Special Education and English Language Learner Co-teaching Process, the School Improvement Process, Teacher & Employee Evaluation, Teacher & Employee hiring and recruitment, District Wellness, the implementation of Superintendent Goals that are aligned with the Strategic Plan, involvement in School Board meetings, and other important meetings in the district that promote our educational model. In addition, Ms. Sipperley has led and provided training for teachers with an important parent home visit model. This model is researched based and is very popular with our parents and school communities. It helps to promote and foster positive relationships with parents and families. I view full time release for union President's as a positive and contributing piece to the operation of our district.

In closing, I appreciate your perseverance and commitment to supporting our school district, the interest of our students, and our community. I ask that you please oppose the legislation that is mentioned above along with any other bills that come up in lame duck that could be detrimental to our school district. The passage of the legislation that is mentioned above will negatively impact the operation of our school district, will result in additional cost, and a reduction in resources and instructional support for our students.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions about this information.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Maleyko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glenn Maleyko, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

GM/jh

cc: Senator Hood
Senator Knezek,
Representative Hammoud
Representative Jones
Representative Santana