

We, the over 500 undersigned parents/guardians/grandparents of students attending Rockingham County Public Schools, have deep concerns about the current state of affairs within our school system. Deeply invested in the education and well-being of our children, we feel compelled to express our perspectives and advocate for positive change.

We understand that members of the school board were elected by the citizens of Rockingham County to represent our interests and ensure the best possible educational environment for our children. However, recent actions and decisions have fallen short of this mandate.

It is imperative that the school board operates in an open, transparent, and supportive manner, not only for teachers and staff but also for parents/guardians, students, and the broader community. We entrust our children to the care of educators and expect that decisions made will prioritize their best interests.

We are troubled by the manner in which certain policies have been implemented. The lack of proper planning and execution has resulted in confusion and frustration among parents and students alike. Moreover, the politicization of certain issues, such as the evaluation of library books, undermines the integrity of our educational system.

Furthermore, the characterization of teachers as political adversaries and the dissemination of false narratives about their conduct in the classroom is unacceptable. Teachers deserve our respect and support.

We are also troubled by attempts to limit public discourse and transparency within the school board. Moving public comment to the end of meetings and restricting the number of speakers only serves to silence concerned voices and hinder constructive dialogue.

We have serious reservations about the long-term consequences of the school board's actions. We fear that talented educators will be driven away and that the reputation of our school system will suffer. The morale for those who stay may also be seriously undermined, weakening our excellent system.

We urge the school board to reconsider its approach:

- Seek input from experienced educators, parents, and other stakeholders when making decisions that impact our children's education.

- Conduct themselves in a professional manner, both in official capacities and on social media platforms.
- Serve as positive role models for our children by prioritizing the common good and mutual respect over political agendas.
- Support and empower teachers in their mission to provide quality education.
- Uphold the principles of equality, equity, and opportunity within our public school system.

We implore the school board to heed our concerns and work towards fostering a more collaborative and inclusive educational environment for our children. Our collective future depends on it.