

School Board Testimony 2.3.26

Word Count 310. Too long, went over.

Good Evening

My name is Nancy Bale. I have been the school nurse at Whaley School since 2005, and with the ACT program since around 2010.

The entire time since I was hired, the district has deployed the 1 nurse/school model, considering it vital and central to the wellbeing of our children. These budget changes would remove that as central guidance and go to a regional model.

To be clear. Nurses will be absent from schools.

Sure, I've heard the arguments about money. Here's my question. Is it actually going to save the district money to cut nurse staffing and go to a regional model? Here are some thoughts to consider when you debate this:

1. Going to a regional model will make nurses less effective. We're going to be distracted finding creative ways to cover schools. We'll be spending more of our day training/advising/driving and less time providing the direct care we are so good at..
2. Our most acutely affected students, the ones with unstable diabetes or allergies, etc. etc., will instantly become more vulnerable. Nurses are called upon to address their needs at ANY TIME during a school day. Perhaps we'd need to hire contract nurses to be available for unstable students throughout the day. **This cuts into cost savings.**
3. Delegation to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel is controversial and some duties cannot be delegated. School staff to whom so called "routine" nurse duties can be delegated are not abundant. It is a LOT of extra work to delegate to staff already burdened by additional duties. We do not know if an addendum would be requested for these folks, but they'd deserve it. **This cuts into cost savings.**
4. There is Risk. Consider the legal implications of this action. One or two lawsuits over care not given **could cut into cost savings.**

Keep the 1 nurse/1 school model.