

## Bill will separate school boards from special interests

Another sinking fund to save the school boards Titanic? "No," it won't save it; the last one did not nor will the next, or the next or the next.

The failure of this ship like the Titanic is also by its design. By this I mean the design and requirements of school board members. Currently, the only requirements for a school board candidate is to be a registered voter and live in Bedford Township. This to me is not enough to be comfortable with.

These individuals directly influence the potential success of our children's future. The track record of this current board may suggest that many financial decisions were directed toward special interest rather than advancing education. Hence the constant need for more money under the pretense of maintenance and education due to the lack of budgeting for these needs. This perception is shared by many, and

perception is reality.

A recent epiphany has suggested the creation of a more balanced and non-biased set of requirements for candidates seeking school board positions. These requirements would attempt to provide an environment less likely to act in the interest of labor versus balanced interests of all factions involved.

It is with great anticipation that I follow the progress of a bill that was drafted early this summer and submitted to our Michigan lawmakers. This proposed bill would set the minimum requirement for school board and would require the following from all candidates applying or appointed to this position:

- Must be a registered voter
- Must reside and pay property tax in the community of the school board position
- Must possess a high school diploma or equivalent

- Cannot be receiving any financial compensation for any current or previous school employment while serving on the school board.

- Cannot conduct any school board business where personal profit results

- Required to have a federal background check initially and repeated every term.

As of October, this bill is in committee and the hope is that no significant modifications will be required prior to its actual progression to the House for voting into state law.

Clearly, this position on a school board requires special people, and they are out there. It is the hope with this bill that by raising the bar we get the right people for the job. Finally, it should recognize a job well done, and board members the recognition and compensation befitting the position.

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