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Representative Peter Abbarno P.O. Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504-0600	Members of the Washington State Board of Education c/o Randy Spaulding, Exec. Director PO Box 47206 600 Washington ST SE Olympia, WA 98504-7206
Governor Jay Inslee Office of the Governor PO Box 40002 Olympia, WA 98504-0002	Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chris Reykdal Old Capitol Building P.O. Box 47200 600 Washington St. SE Olympia, WA 98504-7200



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Dear _____

Washington State law (RCW 28A.150.230) states:

[E]ach common school district board of directors shall be vested with the final responsibility for the setting of policies ensuring quality in the content and extent of its educational program and that such program provide students with the opportunity to achieve those skills which are generally recognized as requisite to learning.

Further, RCW 28A.320.015 states:

The board of directors of each school district may exercise ... [t]he broad discretionary power to determine and adopt written policies not in conflict with other law that provide for the development and implementation of programs, activities, services, or practices that the board determines will:

- (i) Promote the education and daily physical activity of kindergarten through twelfth grade students in the public schools; or*
- (ii) Promote the effective, efficient, or safe management and operation of the school district;*

The Woodland Public Schools Board of Directors finds that the “Broad discretionary power” provided in the statute has been and continues to be progressively eroded by state and federal policy setters and lawmakers who have and continue to make rules and pass laws that usurp the ability of local school boards to adopt effective policies committed to the outcomes of improving education and serving all the children of our community.

The local school board is only effective when it can be accountable to the unique needs and desires of our local community. Decisions that are being made in Olympia and Washington, D.C. are, at the least, unnecessarily burdensome and, at the worst, hamstringing our ability to lead a school district that is truly reflective of the needs and values of our local community. The progressive usurpation of our “broad discretionary power” by state and federal agencies and lawmakers undermines community trust for the local school board and diminishes the ability of our local community to hold us accountable. Local control is increasingly a fiction.

MICHAEL GREEN, SUPERINTENDENT • woodlandschools.org

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We implore you to consider the impact of each of the growing list of regulations, policies, and laws that diminish our authority, responsibility, and accountability for effectively leading the Woodland Public Schools. The growing slog of mandates, restrictions, and controls, many of which are unfunded or underfunded ones, must be thoughtfully considered. For schools to be truly effective and responsive to our community, "broad discretionary power" must be returned to the local school board.

Thank you for your consideration.