

May 7, 2009

Reference: Bill 772, concerning the web cast recording of SBOE meetings.

Testimony by: Kaye Dunn, recently retired classroom educator, Writing trainer for AISD, Language Arts Specialist, trainer for Abydos Learning, and concerned taxpayer-voter.

Good afternoon. My name is Kaye Dunn. I represent teachers of ELA today. Thank you for allowing me to speak in favor of Bill 772 today. It is a vital element of the public's access to all issues being considered by SBOE.

Having had keen interest in the English Language Arts TEKS meetings last spring, I as a specialist in that field felt it necessary that I be present to hear all that would be decided. Many of my colleagues had worked diligently for many long months to prepare for the hearings. I could do that for my colleagues who could not be there.

For Superintendents, administrators, specialists, parent taxpayers, and most of all, classroom teachers, it is VITAL that they attain much new information for the immediate future in order to adapt to the new demands of the TEKS. It is correct that voters have access to this information so that they can SEE the actions, questioning, and attitudes of their elected officials. This is a visual world. Learners are visual ones.

Districts present via web cast board meetings for all players, as does AISD. All may keep abreast of all decisions made on behalf of students. They can review it to extend their understanding.

My ELA colleagues desire visual as well as audio access. Colleagues have lamented the fact that they could not be a part of the actions taken and feel great concern of the ramification it has for their futures in the classroom. They have wanted to learn and relearn and begin to plan but have been isolated from the process. Audio only access does not necessarily name the speaker or allow for full understanding of speaker meaning or visual presentations being made.

As a taxpayer-voter, I can listen and SEE daylong committee hearings on CSPAN concerning anything of interest that the legislative committees or full legislative body is doing at any given moment. I can record items to be seen later, more than once. I can tell someone about the hearings, inquiries, and they can see it after work. They can review information, and they can know what to ask of whom. They have received information of interest expeditiously.

We have visual access to our city and our Nation's daily work. As spokesman for my colleagues who are in the classroom or administration buildings today and for all parents who have heard the rumbling and now want passionately to see and hear the hearings, I sincerely request that you vote in favor of Bill 772 in order that all educators and taxpayers have full access to the meetings of the SBOE.

Respectfully,
Kaye Dunn