

Education Committee Members:

I have worked for the Oregon Virtual Academy for six years. In my opinion, it has been disruptive for ORVA to abruptly lose four administrators during the school year. They were all employees of K12 Inc. ORVA has repeatedly operated up to as many as 6 months at a time without a full leadership team for the past three years. Since October, ORVA has been waiting for K12 to appoint a permanent replacement to lead the school.

School boards often work with an officer or superintendent that answers to the board. Currently at ORVA, the position for head of school and other administrators are employed by K12 Inc. Decisions that impact the school are being made at the corporate level, versus the board level, which in my opinion has negatively affected the school.

This fall, ORVA administrators attempted to increase teachers' salaries to bring them to a more competitive rate. Adjusted salary schedules were submitted to the board well in advance of their meeting. The board approved the salary schedules and K12 immediately sought to adjust the salary schedules, resulting in static salaries for teachers for the 2016-17 school year. ORVA teachers are not part of a union and have no way to collectively bargain. Due to that fact, this year the school board created a teacher to board sub committee that I have been a part of to address concerns of teachers and open the lines of communication with school leadership.

I want ORVA to be a school that Oregon is proud to support.

For these reasons, I am asking that you would not remove the sunset from SB 209, but amend it to read 2017. This would allow ORVA to fully transition administrators to board employees for the 2017-2018 school year.

Thank you for your time,

Keena Hormel