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On Behalf Of: Myself  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: SB1502

While I agree that providing video coverage of school board meetings is important in terms of being transparent, allowing people to move quickly through a meeting to listen to issues of interest being discussed and to review slides and presentations that those everyone, including those attending take screenshots of visual presentation to record details they want to remember.

But, as someone who has scanned through several months' worth of school board minutes to see when a particular matter was covered, I have discovered that many Oregon School Districts have not uploaded these minutes to their websites, making this information nearly impossible to find. If I had to track through footage of 2-hour meetings to find out if a certain matter was addressed at that meeting, I might think bill could make board meetings less transparent than supporters imagine.

I have great respect for those board secretaries who catch moments of conflict and keep a clear record of positions taken by each member on a particular issue. Reporters being able to capture text can write a clear account of what was said. But, having to track forward and back to capture each word could leave this video approach being, again, less transparent than providing a written record of what was said. I should add that I have seen students appointed to the board who, when speaking, are not asked to give their names or step up to a microphone if one has not been placed in front of them. I hope this bill will make technical advice and support available to address these matters so that those viewing at home don't feel left out.

Lastly, I should point out that many districts have not caught up on adding board minutes to their websites. This could extend back many months or more. Providing website support might correct this problem. Surely there are people working for the ODE who could address this equity issue that plagues many small districts in our state.

Because this bill intends to guarantee that districts are transparent in making their board meeting available for all to see, It would be much improved if it would address all of the details I have mentioned here.

The devil, as we know, is in the details. I urge you to beat the devil before this bill goes to the floor.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that Oregon's school board meetings are available for the public to review.

Gregg Heacock