

PURE *perspectives*

Why we **OPPOSE HB 6017**

In 1987, PURE helped create the legislation that established local school councils in Chicago. One of the most important elements of the LSC, and one that PURE fought the hardest for back then, was the **LSC parent majority**. We were hoping that this would help us avoid the cronyism and corruption that had plagued New York City's district councils, an example that was being used to argue against establishing LSCs. We think the parent-majority balance has worked well. Chicago's LSCs have been the cleanest form of government in Illinois.

Research has also shown that LSCs, as they are currently constituted, have a positive impact on school success.

HB 6017 would mess with that success by putting an additional member on the LSC, a non-teaching staff member. While we strongly agree that all staff members in a school have much to contribute, we believe that staff concerns and interests can be represented by the two LSC teacher members who are elected by the entire staff. If new members are added to the LSC, additional parent members should also be added to maintain the balance we now have, but HB 6017 does not do that.

We are asking you to **vote NO on HB 6017**.

- **LSCs have not been involved** in discussions of this bill.
- The language of the bill is **extremely vague and poorly written**, which could create new complications for LSC operations.
- Such a change will **destroy the parent majority** on the LSCs, which has been a key component of their effectiveness and clean operations.
- The proposal does not give consideration to **potential conflicts of interest** (electing the school clerk who also prepares the internal accounts reports monitored by the LSC, for example).
- All staff currently vote for teacher representatives, so **they are already represented**. The principal generally reports on school operations at each LSC meeting.
- **LSCs as they are currently constituted** are the CLEANEST FORM OF GOVERNMENT in Illinois. Why change that???

Thank you for your attention. Feel free to call (312-491-9101) or e-mail me (pure@pureparents.org) with any questions.

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