

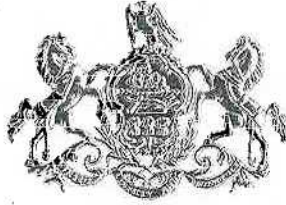
2583

22ND DISTRICT
ROBERT J. MELLOW
SENATE BOX 203022
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3022
PHONE: (717) 787-6481
FAX: (717) 783-5198

524 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX B
PECKVILLE, PA 18452
PHONE: (570) 489-0336
PHONE: (570) 346-5721
FAX: (570) 963-3170

102 POCONO BLVD.
MOUNT POCONO, PA 18344
PHONE: (570) 839-4812
FAX: (570) 839-4816

The Democratic Leader



Senate of Pennsylvania

COMMITTEES

RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS
MINORITY CHAIRMAN
ETHICS, MINORITY CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
1-800-364-1581 (TT)

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**PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

December 12, 2006

Mr. James Buckheit
Executive Director
State Board of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to me regarding the proposed amendment to Chapter 49-2 regulations. The letter was sent by the Riverside School District, which is in my Senatorial District and I wanted to make the Board aware of Mr. Luzio's concerns. Also for your information, I have enclosed a copy of my response to Mr. Luzio.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If I can be of assistance during this process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


ROBERT J. MELLOW
The Democratic Leader

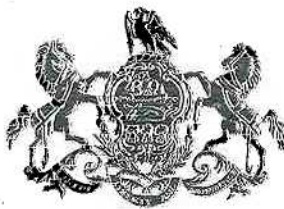
Enclosures

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THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3022
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1-800-364-1581 (TT)

December 12, 2006

Mr. Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.
Superintendent, Riverside School District
300 Davis Street
Taylor, PA 18517

Dear Superintendent Luzio:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the Chapter 49-2 regulations, currently in proposed stage.

I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Jim Buckheit, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, for further transmittal to the subcommittee of the Board that is addressing these regulations.

Please be advised that because the current legislative term ended before hearings on these regulations could be held in either the Senate or the House and because concerns continue to be raised from many sectors of the educational community, I am confident that final action on these regulations will not be taken for some time, probably not until next spring. As of today's date, none of the Education Committees have expressed approval of the regulations. It is my understanding that the Board will continue to receive and consider all comments. I would advise you to check the Board's website for further information about the status of these regulations.

Thank you again for your correspondence and your interest in this very important matter. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


ROBERT J. MELLOW
The Democratic Leader

cc: James Buckheit, Executive Director, State Board of Education ✓

Riverside School District

Administrative Offices
300 Davis Street
Taylor, PA 18517

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DEC 8 - 2006

Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.
Superintendent

Phone (570) 562-2121
FAX (570) 562-3205

December 5, 2006

Sen. Robert J. Mellow
524 Main Street
PO Box B
Peckville, PA 18452

Dear Sen. Mellow:

My purpose in writing is to express my opposition and that of my administrative staff's opposition to the proposed amendment to the State Board of Education's teacher certification regulations (Chapter 49-2) that are now before the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

The regulations, if finally adopted, would make it even more difficult for us to appropriately staff our schools.

Our reasons for taking this position is that these regulations would create a workforce which lacks a "broad" preparation as elementary teachers, the inability to integrate curriculum in upper elementary grades, anticipated shortages in "properly" certified personnel, and lost flexibility in reassigning personnel in teaching assignments.

Finally, this piece of legislation does not reflect the essence of the term "highly qualified."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Salvatore F. Luzio, Sr.
Superintendent
Riverside School District

SFL/rd