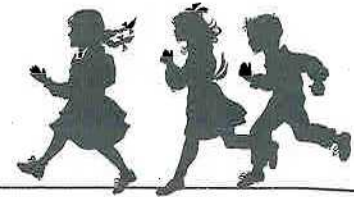




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Muhlenberg Elementary School



Administration Center
31 South Penn Street
P.O. Box 328
Allentown, PA 18105
484-765-4000

"Be the Best You Can Be!"
"Home of the Owls"

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PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

740 North Twenty-first Street
Allentown, PA 18104

484-765-4860
FAX: 484-765-4878

Phil Turton
Principal
turtonp@allentownsd.org

December 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Jim Buckheit,

I am writing to oppose the proposed amendments 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 more difficult for us to appropriately staff our schools for the following reasons.

Often when a teacher is hired for a particular grade level, he or she finds that they would perform better in another grade level or the administrator determines that the teacher would perform better on another grade level. For example, a teacher hired for fifth grade may perform better if reassigned to a third or second grade. The possibility for reassignment to another grade level needs to exist so that the needs of students can be met.

Each school year, the enrollment in Muhlenberg Elementary School changes & at times, the change can be dramatic. Therefore, the number of classrooms on each grade level changes every year. Flexibility is needed to be able to reassign teachers to other grade levels so that classrooms can be staffed & teachers do not need to be transferred to another building.

It takes years, sometimes as many as ten years, to staff a school with a team of teachers that work well together. Flexibility is needed to be able to reassign teachers to other grade levels so that the team can be kept together instead of having to transfer teachers to another building because of restrictions on their certification for certain grade levels. A team of teachers who share, support & understand each other is vital to providing a program that meets the needs of students, their parents & the community.

For these reasons, I urge you to disapprove the Chapter 49-2 regulations. Please feel free to contact me at Muhlenberg Elementary School if you would like to discuss this with me.

Sincerely,

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