

Statement of Support for EASD Faculty and Staff

As we do each meeting, we set aside time for public comments. We do this by both Sunshine Law requirement and our interest as the governing body for this school system in hearing stakeholder perspectives. The school board wants to remind our community that we value civil, respectful statements and clear, concise communications that help inform us of your viewpoint on a particular topic relevant to our operations and current deliberations. Public comment provides you, as a stakeholder, the opportunity to exercise the most fundamental of your rights under the First Amendment, the right to petition the government. Treat the exercise of that right with the seriousness and dignity it deserves.

On that note, we would like to take a moment to address a comment that was made at our last meeting. This was a comment citing statistics published in the New York Post indicating that nearly 10% of public-school students will suffer from some sort of physical abuse by a teacher.

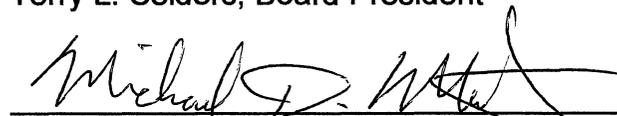
This school board and our faculty and staff value our students' wellness and safety as much as anyone else. Obviously, there is zero tolerance for abuse in our schools, homes, places of employment, or the community in general. Our teachers, support staff, and Administrators are mandated reporters and have a legal obligation to report any suspected activities that encompass this type activity and we can assure our community they take this extremely serious. However, broad accusatory statements thinly veiled and directed at our staff add no value to us as school directors and serve no useful purpose. They only hurt our school system's overall culture, damage our employees' reputations unjustly, make it more challenging to attract and retain quality employees, and can be destructive to our students and their learning. While personal attacks and innuendos might be satisfying to the speaker, they add no worth to our governance or your essential role in local government. In fact, they violate the norms of public decency, and we strongly denounce such rhetoric. If you have direct knowledge of school staff acting in a way unbecoming of the position, report it as you would do for any person at your place of employment or within the community at large.

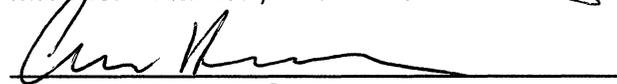
When we think about our faculty and staff, many descriptors come to mind; none of those adjectives are groomers, predators, and abusers. Instead, the words that come to our minds are committed, dedicated, creative, hard-working, skilled, role models, community members, neighbors, parents, grandparents, and service-oriented. To our school employees, we are thankful for your service to this community and our students. The overwhelming majority of parents, students, and stakeholders, including this school board, value and support you.

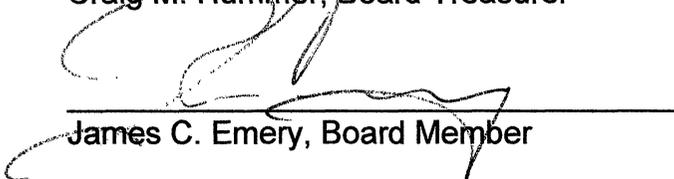
In closing, the Board uses the public comment period as an opportunity to listen but not debate issues or enter into a question-and-answer session with the speaker. While you can address the Board on any matter germane to school district business, comments directly relating to the action items we are contemplating are most beneficial to us as we consider our positions on the actionable items of our agenda.

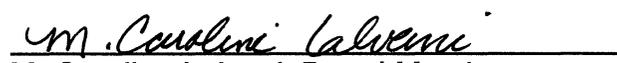
We, the undersigned members of the Elizabethtown Area School District Board of School Directors, certify our support for the publicly read statement of support for the EASD Faculty and Staff as presented at the February 14, 2023, regularly scheduled workshop session:

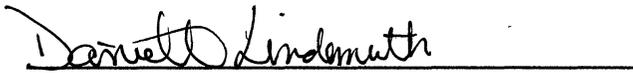

Terry L. Selders, Board President

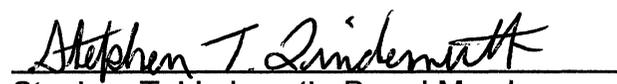

Michael D. Martin, Board Vice President


Craig M. Hummer, Board Treasurer


James C. Emery, Board Member


M. Caroline Lalvani, Board Member


Danielle D. Lindemuth, Board Member


Stephen T. Lindemuth, Board Member


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Karen R. Sweigart, Board Member