

Erica Price, Shawnee Heights USD 450 School Board Member

Ekprice96@gmail.com, 785-213-7046

HB2382, Opponent

Hearing Date: Monday, February 20, 2023

My name is Erica Price, and I am currently in my sixth year and my second term as a Shawnee Heights School Board member. As not to waste time, I am an opponent of HB 2382. There are four key components to this bill in which I directly oppose.

Starting with Line 26 - As school board members we are dually elected officials and go through the same processes and take oaths when we take office the same as our state representatives and senators. Just as most elected officials, all email communications through that official email address are subject to the open records act. Never should your private email addresses or ours be subject to the same rules. We all have a right to privacy and that includes all elected officials including school board members.

Line 32 (c) - School Boards follow policies and procedures set forth by the State School Board, The Department of Education, and Shawnee Heights USD 450 all of which would be appropriate groups to propose policy and procedure changes. It is a concern that a bill of this nature is coming out of the K-12 Budget Committee when this is not a K-10 budget item.

Line 36 (d) - School Board meetings are business meetings conducted in the public, not open public forums. Public comment is a time when patrons can voice their comments. This is not a time for discussion or debate.

Line 4 (g) - The key to any strong and effective board is good communication and self-governance. If there is a board member not sharing information meant for the entire board, that is an ethical issue and one that the Board President should handle. I am not sure legislative committee time should have been consumed on this matter when there are clear rules of ethics provided by the State Board of Education and Shawnee Heights USD 450 on how to handle such matters.

Good policy making comes from listening to the professionals from all sides of an issue and then listening to the people that actually live and function under that reality. Please allow school boards and their members to continue to work hard for their communities, patrons, and children with the same trust, fidelity and respect that our representatives, senators, and other elected officials expect.