



O N A G A U S D 3 2 2
ONAGA - HAVENSVILLE - WHEATON

Trevor W. Ashcraft
Superintendent

Ben O'Dell
Principal

Crystal Brunner
Assistant Principal

Testimony before the

Senate Committee on Education

on

SB 465

by

Testimony provided on behalf of BEN O'DELL – Principal, USD 322 Onaga

Madam Chair and members of the committee:

I stand in support of this bill as it is presented today.

Smaller, more rural school systems like ours struggle at times to upgrade systems and facilities due to a smaller tax base and reduced access to capital outlay funds relative to larger school systems. In many districts like ours aging facilities are a fact of life. This puts our facilities behind the curve on ADA compliance as the building codes were different fifty years ago, and retrofits for compliance can be costly. The physical safety and security of students and staff is even more critical now than it has ever been, as evidenced by widespread acts of senseless gun violence in schools. Upgrades to camera systems, managing exterior door access, and creating safe controlled entry systems must be done to keep our people safe.

An additional levy of up to two mills would be a game-changer for school systems such as ours. Allowing access to the possible additional funding supports local taxpayer control of the education of their children, and I urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully,

BEN O'DELL

Principal, USD 322 Onaga

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