



Legislation to cede power to superintendents not needed

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“A bill pre-filed for consideration in next year’s General Assembly would give superintendents a great deal of oversight in their districts and reduce the power of schools’ site-based decision-making councils,” notes Jackson French in the Sunday Daily News.

These enhanced powers would include “hiring a new principal in the event of a vacancy, with or without the approval of the school’s council.”

Apparently John Schickel, the state senator who is sponsoring the proposed legislation, feels that superintendents in Kentucky do not have the authority they need to run their districts in an effective and efficient manner.

I vehemently disagree with this assumption.

Part of the rationale for creating site-based councils, which are made up of two parents, three teachers and the school principal, was to ensure adequate input from key constituencies when decisions are made that affect the education and welfare of our children.

Apparently, Schickel prefers a more dictatorial approach; after all, what could parents, teachers and administrators at a particular school possibly know about meeting the needs of the students who attend there?

I served on the SBDM councils for both South Warren Middle School and South Warren High School; I was part of the council that selected the current principal at SWHS. I think we did a pretty good job with that assignment.

Site-based councils represent the tangible embodiment of local control.

Finally, it also concerns me that no one from Warren County Public Schools or the Bowling Green Independent School District would bother to comment on the proposed legislation.

Surely our school administrators have an opinion about this highly questionable attempt to take even more decision-making power out of the hands of those most affected by those decisions.

As a parent, I would be very interested in what our local educators think about Schickel’s proposed legislation.

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