

Candice McElroy
Stow, ME, and MSAD72 school board
LD 660

LD 660 is an act to impose undue burden on school districts and to change professional development opportunities for teachers and staff in our schools into public displays rather than their intended purpose to provide teachers with needed ongoing training and educational opportunities. As a member of the school board of MSAD72, I am aware that our teachers and staff have many requirements to stay up-to-date on various policies, educational strategies, and current events that may impact them and their students both in and out of the classroom. Professional development days are carefully planned by the superintendent and school administrators as opportunities or challenges arise. These are professional development opportunities for our teachers and staff and not a public spectacle to be filmed and placed online for any member of the public to observe or participate in. Teachers are subject to abuse and scrutiny in these days of online forums and social media and they deserve an opportunity to gather as teachers at professional development days and participate openly amongst their peers and supervisors and not for public comment. If there are concerns about professional development programming, they can be taken up by the public with the school board and superintendent.

As for publicly publishing and sharing the curriculum without variation for 3 years, there is no better way of stifling teacher creativity. Our school board meetings have a monthly report from our curriculum committee and members of the public are always welcome to attend. We do not have the resources nor it is clearly in the public interest to publish the details this bill demands on our website. This bill creates administrative burdens without benefitting our students and minimizes the works that our teachers put into their jobs finding creative and engaging ways to educate our children each day.