

Sewall Maddocks Jr. Testimony

In support of LD 2111, “An act to Amend the Charter of the Boothbay-Boothbay Harbor Community School District”

Good morning, Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and members of the committee.

I am Sewall Maddocks Jr., I am here today speaking as an 8th-generation citizen of Boothbay Harbor, 1979 graduate of our high school, same for my wife and three sons. Chair of the Boothbay–Boothbay Harbor CSD Board of Trustees. I am here to support LD 2111, as amended.

In 2023, the charter revision LD1753 removed local law and created confusion. When I asked the superintendent about trustee duties, he said trustees were only responsible for buildings and grounds. There were no guidelines, no bylaws, no policies, no mission statement, nothing for the trustees. I went back to the original 1953 charter: Section 2 said, “trustees' power and limitations, all affairs of said district”, except education—teachers, curriculum, terms of school. That was clear: trustees on the business side, committee on the classroom side.

The 2023 change swapped that for vague “may act as” language. It blurred lines—who handles what, when? Town officials and Representative Stover were not aware this had happened, and it was not the intent.

LD 2111 fixes it. The amendments make it mandatory: trustees shall handle reserve funds, facilities budgets, and non-instructional capital purchases. Trustees prepare the capital and facilities portions; the committee handles operating. Both boards collaborate on joint bylaws for overlaps.

This is not diminishing roles; it is restoring clarity. Clear roles mean better accountability, less conflict, and more focus on students and the community.

Strong governance means strong schools. I urge you to support LD 2111, as amended, and vote yes.

Thank you.

