

bill would give to the County Council of PTAs the responsibility for nominating candidates to the Board; then the Board would select to fill its own vacancies. While I think it eminently appropriate for the public to be involved in the process, I question the County Council of PTAs being the appropriate body. For one thing, it is not a legally responsible body, nor does it respond to the wishes of the electorate as expressed at the ballot box. For another, the County Council is not representative even of the patrons of the school system. We have 26 schools, 25 of which are eligible to have PTAs. The record, however, is that only 14 schools have functioning PTAs.

In addition, attendance at regular County Council meetings numbers only eight or ten people although each of the 14 schools names four persons to represent it on the Council. I believe this sufficient ground to question the representativeness of the organization.

The bill also would provide for only two lists of three names each to be recommended to the Board. If no one is selected from those six names, it appears that the point of impasse is reached. It does not provide for additional names to be proffered.

If this legislation becomes law, I can foresee a set of circumstances where we might be operating for a period of two or three years without a functioning Board of Education. The membership of our current elected Board now contains three members appointed by you, the Governor. Let us say we were relying on the County Council of PTAs, an organization having no legal foundation, and one not necessarily meeting the conditions of its own bylaws concerning membership and attendance. There is no way that I see that the County Council can be forced to nominate. And, assuming six names are put forward and none is acceptable to the remaining Board members - The consequences are unhappy to consider.

One other point - I also question the idea of Board members selecting to fill vacancies within their own ranks. The idea of a self-perpetuating Board is not a sound idea to me. Consider the situation the new Board member would face if he knew that he had been selected to join the Board by a vote of 4 to 2. I believe that he would feel that his presence on the Board would constitute a source of conflict rather than a positive contribution. And this, too, in my view, is not a good situation.

I have certain reservations about sending you this letter. As the Charles County Superintendent of Schools, it is not my formal role to be involved in the actual