

January 24, 2022

To the K-12 Budget Committee

Testimony re: HB 2513

As a voting citizen of the State of Kansas I respectfully submit this testimony for consideration by the K-12 Budget Committee.

I have been attending out local school board meetings, USD 489, since this summer and have been amazed about their enthusiasm for Social/Emotional Learning. This is definitely a topic that receives a lot of promotion—not academics.

I am reporting regarding what has happened in our school district within the last month. The high school students were told they would no longer have their two-hour study hall to work on assignments, go to teachers in a subject where they need assistance, prepare but rather they would be doing “Mindful Mondays”. When this was initiated the students were told “to participate or be subject to disciplinary action such as being sent to the office, etc., and it would be “considered a disciplinary action”. This is quote from a senior student in the high school. The students were told this was required for the school to be accreditation. The student reports that since this class was initiated the teacher lectures on the “be happy” subject and then they take a survey or journal their thoughts.

The parents were not informed of this change in their student’s class schedule; no information has been communicated to parents the purpose of this “class” or what the tests, surveys are for and what is done with the information.

HB 2513 is definitely a move the right direction so that parents are informed of the intent of SEL and have the choice to opt their student in our out. Parents have the right and responsibility regarding the education, not indoctrination, of their children.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugenia Spady

Hays, Ks.