

Maria Hougan

From: Mike Tachick [miket@dairyland.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 12:49 PM
To: Maria Hougan
Subject: Comments - Public Safety Committee proposed ordinance

Dear Pili,

I ask that you provide my comments to the Public Safety Committee members, regarding the proposed ordinance involving "intermittent attendance." Would you please also confirm receipt of this email?

As a resident within the Stoughton school district, I have children both in the public school system as well as home-based school. I have several strong concerns about the proposed intermittent attendance concept and details. First, the term is not defined and therefore could lead to various interpretations by involved parties. Such ambiguity concerns me, as I have a child in the high school this year, who may return to home schooling next year, whose situation could be viewed as entering and leaving the school system, yet complying with all Wisconsin schooling requirements. More applicable yet to the intermittent attendance issue, a child attending public school for part of the year and selecting home schooling for part of the year could appear to have "intermittent attendance" as determined by an official party, yet the child will have properly have met all Wisconsin schooling requirements. As our family has experimented with public, private, and home schooling, such changes mid-year between these systems could easily be interpreted as intermittent attendance.

A more basic issue that is that the proposed ordinance attempts to address truancy, for which statutes are already published, and provisions exist for remediation of offenses. This ordinance wording appears to overlap established and functioning truancy requirements.

Finally, the school administration should retain the ability to address truancy and related issues, instead of city ordinances to criminalize such actions. As raised in my first point, where the definition of the term is in question, enforcement could be arbitrary, and may negatively affect families who are trying to follow all Wisconsin schooling statutes, but may use other than just the public schooling system.

Thank you for consideration of this input.

Sincerely,

Mike Tachick
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Stoughton WI