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Date: Wed, May 4, 2022 at 3:13 PM
Subject: School Nurse Position
To: Gregory Hobaugh <ghobaugh@hbsdboe.org>
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Good Afternoon Dr. Hobaugh,

I'm reaching out as a concerned parent of a child with a medical condition. I have two children in the district (3rd & 5th graders). As a school nurse myself, when I found out that the Middle School School Nurse was retiring I was very interested in applying for the position. Today I noticed that the position has been posted, and I was honestly very surprised that the district has chosen to post a part-time position. The obvious concern is that my children, especially my daughter who has a medical condition (not to mention the other children under your supervision), will not be able to be cared for medically during the entire school day.

The position is posted as a 29.5hr/week position requiring a school nurse certification. My other concern is that this position will not be filled leaving the Middle School without a nurse. This is genuinely terrifying. School nurse positions tend to be difficult to fill right now, and this happens to be a time when a lot of school nurses have chosen to retire, many as a result of the pandemic. Historically, school nurses aren't in it for the paycheck, but the district is asking a lot of a school nurse to take a part-time position. Let's be honest, at 29.5hrs/week the nurse is there the majority of the school day without getting the respect and acknowledgment from the board and district of receiving full-time pay and benefits.

I'm also envisioning what the part-time position will require of your Elementary School Nurse. There is a lot that is required on the part of a school nurse outside of the day-to-day care of the students. I question how these requirements will get accomplished if your Middle School Nurse is working on a part-time basis (or if the position goes unfilled)? Just consider the unprecedented challenges that we've faced during the current school year in regards to Covid.

My apologies for being verbose. However, as a devoted school nurse and a mother of a child with a medical condition that needs continuous monitoring, I'm genuinely concerned. I'm not ignorant to the financial needs and constraints of a school district. Nor am I ignorant that I'm not privy to the bigger picture behind this decision. This is why I'm reaching out. I'm hoping that you can provide a rationale or reason for why the district has decided they don't need two full-time school nurses for their two schools. I also thought it may be helpful to offer some perspective. I hope my perspective and thoughts are considered. Please take the time to clarify this decision for me....

Be Well,

Jessica Storey