

Dear Senators:

Based on nearly seven years' experience as the chair of the Taconic and Green Regional School District, I oppose amending S.55 to require school boards to hold all meetings in a hybrid way. It is difficult to conduct a meeting when some board members are remote and others are present, even when all the equipment is working right. When several members want to speak on an issue, it is hard to keep track of who comes first. Also, the remote members lack the visual cues provided by those who are in person. Moreover, even though we have what seems to be up to date equipment and have been conducting hybrid meetings for a couple years, there are often technical problems. If we, as a relatively large and well funded district, still have these problems, I can only imagine how difficult it may be for less fortunate districts to conduct all meetings in a hybrid way.

I write only for myself. Our board has not recently discussed this issue.

Herbert G. Ogden
214 South End Road
Mount Tabor VT 05253-9756