

DISTRICT 58 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of December 20, 2023

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 3:45 p.m. at O’Neill Middle School.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:48 p.m.

Present

Emily Hanus, Faith Behr, Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer, Zac Craft, Samantha Figueroa, Melissa Jerves, Jacqueline Jourjy, Kelly Novotny, Kevin Russell, Bruce Swanson

Absent

Chuck Brewster, Melissa Ellis, Kathy Catalani, Emily Hanlon, Allison Hannam, Jason Suchy, Zabrina Tumaitis Namba, Catherine Thacker Shiliga

Approval of Minutes

Sarah Borgetti moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2023 and Kelly Novotny seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2023 IASB Delegate Assembly

Those resolutions that were recommended by the IASB committee and the District 58 Board were passed by the Delegate Assembly. There were not any particularly controversial resolutions this year.

Legislative Breakfast

The committee confirmed dates for the Legislative Breakfast: Friday, February 2, 2024, and a back-up date of February 16. Legislators preferred February 2. The format of the breakfast will be:

7:30-7:45: introductions

7:45: full group questions appropriate to both federal and state legislators

8:05-8:55: small group sessions

8:55: Closing remarks

The committee discussed the possibility of asking each legislator in the full group a different question, or asking them an open-ended question regarding education. Possible topics:

- Legislation regarding notification of bullying reports
- Polling places at schools
- SEL (would need to define)
- Learning loss/lack of preparation of primary students who missed preschool and early intervention due to pandemic (regulation, routines, behavior)
 - o Extra support is difficult to staff

- How can legislatures continue to support schools/sustain services now that ESSER funds are running out?
- Reporting of chronic absenteeism and its effect on summative designations on school report card

Invitations to the breakfast will be sent to:

- All board-level committee members, neighboring school district boards and superintendents, SCAC, local elected officials
- Other community educational partners: YMCA, park district, preschools
- SASSED Director
- Library Director
- LEND
- Regional Superintendent

Legislative Update

New law: public libraries in Illinois cannot ban books or materials. However, as an elementary district, we do limit based on age-appropriateness (movies, Internet filter). Parents can still raise a curricular objection.

Pension issues and how to pay for them will be coming—fix Tier 2 issues as those employees near retirement (pension pays out less than Social Security, which is not permitted).

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Bruce Swanson moved and Samantha Figueroa seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.