

DISTRICT 58 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 27, 2021

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 3:45 p.m. at Longfellow Center.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

Present

Emily Hanus, Melissa Ellis, Kevin Russell, Allison Hannam, Bryant Cobo, Kathy Catalani, Matthew Elster, Megan Hewitt, Samantha Figueroa, Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer, Zabrina Tumaitis Namba, Zachary Craft, and Melissa Jerves (secretary).

Absent

Bruce Swanson, Dana Evans, Geoff Neustadt, Jason Suchy, Nicholas Allchin, Sherilyn Genin, and Sonali Patil.

Approval of Minutes

Kathy Catalani suggested a correction to the minutes of September 22, 2021, noting that her name was on the “absent” list although she was present. Melissa Ellis moved to approve the minutes of September 22, 2021 as amended; Allison Hannam seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IASB Resolutions Report

Emily Hanus will represent the District at the Illinois Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly at the Joint Annual Conference in November. Resolutions have been offered by school districts around the state. An IASB committee has made recommendations whether or not to adopt these resolutions and advocate for them at the state and federal levels. The District 58 Legislative Committee will review them and make recommendations to the School Board, who will discuss and vote on their final positions at the November 8, 2021 board meeting.

The committee began by discussing those resolutions in which Superintendent Dr. Russell’s recommendation differed from that of the IASB Resolutions Committee.

2. Student Safety and Protection Plan: would allow a district to permit valid FOID card holders to carry a concealed firearm on campus to promote student safety. Dr. Russell argued, and the committee agreed, that more guns in school by non-law enforcement individuals could cause many problems. The committee recommends **Do Not Adopt**.

4. Board Member Childcare Reimbursement: would allow for school board members to receive reimbursement for childcare during board meetings. The committee acknowledged that this might

encourage valuable diversity on school boards, but the resolution is not drafted narrowly enough to limit it to those with demonstrated economic need. An additional concern would arise in offering reimbursement to board members but not to staff members. The committee recommends **Do Not Adopt**.

22. Prepare All Students to Succeed: urges districts to develop guidelines on how to grade student's late assignments. While the committee does not necessarily disagree with the intent of the resolution, it believes such issues should be decided locally. The committee recommends **Do Not Adopt**.

23. Physical and Mental Health of Students: physical and mental health of students is of prime importance; encourages districts to include mental, physical, dental and vision screenings. The committee felt the resolution was too general, leaving unanswered questions and lacking logistics. Such an initiative might be more properly sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The committee recommends **Do Not Adopt**.

The committee discussed several of the remaining resolutions, and agreed with the remainder of the Superintendent's and the IASB Resolutions Committee's recommendations. These recommendations will be presented to the Board at the November 8th meeting.

Legislative Update

Kathy Catalani reported that the comment period is open for HB 2778, for which an amendment has been offered requiring school support personnel to be paid when school districts utilize e-learning days.

Legislative Breakfast

Potential dates for the Legislative Breakfast are January 28, 2022, with a back-up date of January 14, 2022. These dates are still tentative because the legislators' schedules are not yet set.

IEA/NEA Update

The committee did not have any discussion items.

PTA Communications

The committee did not have any discussion items.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Megan Hewitt moved and Melissa Ellis seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.