

**DISTRICT 58 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of November 20, 2019**

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 3:45 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m.

**Present**

Chair Kirat Doshi, Nicholas Allchin, Kathy Catalani, Jason Suchy, Kevin Russell, Megan Hewitt, Michelle Rzepka, Sherilyn Genin, Bruce Swanson, and Melissa Jerves (non-member; secretary).

**Absent**

Katie Hannigan, Dan Gilbert, Emily Hanus, Geoff Neustadt, Gwendolyn Box, Emily Hanlon, Jim Cagle, Laura Duffy, Lisa Niforatos, Mike Ghawaly.

**Approval of Minutes**

Michelle Rzepka moved and Kathy Catalani seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

**IASB Resolutions Update**

Kirat Doshi summarized the four most controversial resolutions and the Board's position on each:

- #1: A resolution permitting school staff with FOID card to be armed on school property. The District has received several comments from the community urging opposition to this Resolution. The Board voted to oppose.
- #3: A resolution creating a school safety grant program that would fund school resource officers in districts with need (particularly rural districts with long law enforcement response times). The Board voted to support.
- #10: A resolution in favor of school board member compensation. The Board voted to oppose.
- #13: A resolution allowing local control of laborer wages (in contrast to the current Prevailing Wage Act that requires districts to pay the prevailing wage set by the state). The Board voted to support local control. However, it is unlikely that this issue will get any traction in the legislature.

**Legislative Update**

- Legislation has been passed requiring districts to convene a threat assessment team by December 21, 2019, and establish a threat assessment procedure by February 2020. The ROE is bringing superintendents together in December to compare plans and educate about the law's requirements. District 58 currently has a District Safety Team comprised of administrators, and Village fire and police representatives.
- A capital spending bill may provide school maintenance grants (limit of \$50,000, matched by the state).

- School consolidation bills may be introduced as a cost-saving measure. However, in many cases the costs of consolidation (merging salary schedules and health insurance plans) do not really reduce bureaucracy or costs.
- Pension cost shift is still being talked about in Springfield. The teachers' pension system has a large unfunded liability due to the state's failure to fulfill its obligations. The state is looking to shift its cost to local districts, which could only be funded by an increase in property taxes. In combination with a potential property tax freeze, draconian cuts to education would be necessary to pay for such a pension cost shift.

### **IEA, NEA Update**

- In light of the *Janus* decision that overturned years of collective bargaining law, SB 1784 has passed both houses. It protects the privacy of public employees, affirms collective bargaining rights, and clarifies dues deduction procedures.
- SB 10 reestablishes a pathway for paraprofessionals to gain licensure through a test of basic skills.
- SB 460 postpones the implementation date for three-day reporting requirements for student IEP meetings, allowing time for school districts to clarify their procedures.

### **Legislative Breakfast**

The committee reviewed legislator survey results and set a date and back up date for the breakfast: Feb. 7, 2020 and Feb. 21, 2020. Megan Hewitt will contact legislators with a save the date communication. Melissa Jerves will send formal invitations after the holidays.

The committee discussed ideas for modifying the format of the breakfast, including shifting the mingling time to the end of the event, adding town hall style questions, and narrowing the topics to two specific themes to allow for deeper conversation.

An additional Legislative Committee meeting will be held on Dec. 18th to finalize the format and formulate questions. The Jan. 22nd meeting will allow for final logistics.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjournment**

Bruce Swanson moved and Kathy Catalani seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.