



Community Unit School District 308

SERVING ALL OR PARTS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF
AURORA, JOLIET, MONTGOMERY, OSWEGO, PLAINFIELD, AND YORKVILLE

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oswego East High School – Room C215

Monday, March 23, 2015

5:30 p.m. – 6:55 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Board of Education Member and Committee Chair Mr. Greg O'Neil

The attendance sheet was used in place of an official roll call.

Members in Attendance: Alexa Backus, Michael Blaylock, Tracy Collander, Anne Elwood, Kevin Harris, Amanda Mancke, Jamil Nichols, Brian Valek, Natalie Winkfield, Melissa Woolever

Dr. Matthew Wendt, Superintendent, Dr. Paul O'Malley, Associate Superintendent
Board Member: Greg O'Neil

Guests in Attendance: No guests were present

Members Absent: Sherry Bochenek

Recording Secretary: Ursula Coan

II. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2015 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. O'Neil to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2015 meeting. All members in attendance agreed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

III. Representative Stephanie Kifowit

Representative Kifowit visited the committee to talk about SB 1 as well as the Resolution concerning the Capital Development Grant. The Resolution gives a good argument that the money needs to be dispersed. The Resolution will now move to the committee and it will be picked up after Spring break. It will get moved to the Senate by April 7th. Representative Kifowit will work with Senator Bertino-Tarrant to move it through the Senate.

She mentioned that Senator Manar was working diligently on getting his Senate bill passed. He wants it to be more needs based than it is now. It also calls for considering regional differences when determining state aide for districts. A study will analyze the adequate amount of funding for education and develop a base level funding for adequate student growth.

It will require school districts that receive funding for ELL programs to report their revenues and costs related to bilingual education.

The question was asked on what her general sense was of the new Governors view on public education. Representative Kifowit responded that he thinks it's important, but that we have a huge deficit. The Governor also likes Charter Schools. The Governor has not presented any

bills, so there is nothing to lay a foundation on yet. The Senate is working hard to take a leadership role.

Representative Kifowit's comments on unfunded mandates; the Governor formed a task force; the Government moves at a snail's pace; much easier to add laws than to remove them.

The number one issue is property tax relief and according to Representative Kifowit, it fits high on the priorities since it is a problem all over. Representative Kifowit also talked about not being able to treat all districts the same, rather we need to make sure that all districts reach their goals. It should definitely be needs based funding.

If the construction grant would be paid to our district, it would most likely be done in installments. They would probably release it by grant year.

Dr. Wendt thanked Representative Kifowit, saying we are fortunate to have the legislators we have and that we have great people representing us. The construction grant is code for reduced taxes and SD 308 has been very patient in waiting to get paid.

IV. Sub-Committee Selection

Three sub- committees were formed:

Unfunded State Mandates:

Tracy Collander, Amanda Mancke, Melissa Woolever

General State Aide Funding:

Kevin Harris, Jamil Nichols, Natalie Winkfield

Capital Development Grant:

Alexa Backus, Michael Blaylock, Anne Elwood, Brian Valek

V. Information:

- a. Lobbyist Article (Attached)
- b. School Funding Reform Act of 2015 (Senate Bill 1)
- c. Discussion: SD 308's Formula Modification Proposal
- d. SD 308 Resolution Concerning 2004 Capital Development Grant
- e. Unfunded State Mandates

VI. Future Meeting Dates/Times/Location

Just the next meeting date was set. It will be April 6, 2015 at East View School at 5:30 pm.

VII. Discussion: Visit Dates to Springfield to Meet with Legislators

Some dates were discussed for the Springfield visit. April would be better than May because it might be winding down by then. Hosting breakfast on Wednesday morning might be safer than Thursday since sessions get cancelled when not needed.

VIII. Public Comment (3 minutes each)

There were no individuals present for public comment.

IX. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Greg O'Neil to adjourn. All present were in favor to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, April 6, 2015