

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting
Monday, July 26, 2021 -- 5:00 p.m.
District Office Multi Purpose Room

Attendees: Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lumia (left 5:23 p.m.), Mr. Slosower, Ms. Cahill (arrived at 5:15 p.m.)

Community Members: Ms. Coffman, Ms. Migatz, Mr. Rubin (left 5:23 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Appointment of Chair

Mr. Lumia nominated Mr. Slosower as Chairperson of the Legislative Action Committee.

Second by Ms. Johnson

Yes: Mr. Lumia, Mr. Slosower, Ms. Johnson

Not Present: Ms. Cahill

Unanimous. Motion Passed.

Charter Review and Goals Discussion

The Committee agreed to start reviewing the charter while they gave Ms. Cahill more time to arrive.

Mr. Slosower recognized Ms. Johnson, who volunteered to take the minutes this year. Ms. Pedro will post notice of the meetings and update the website, as needed.

Mr. Slosower stated that to keep the topic from last year related to IDEA funding, as we did get letters from the public and also from NYSSBA on this subject (**Topic #1**) :

- *Local, State, Federal Legislation that impacts Special Education Services Advocate to federally fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to the promised federal target -- 40 percent of the extra cost of special education.*

Those in attendance agreed to this.

Mr. Slosower stated that Ms. Johnson had expressed a concern over student absences that are tied to funding (**Topic #4**): *No loss of funding that can be tied to student absences*

due to COVID and non-COVID related illnesses. Ms. Johnson explained that her concern was over State funding that is tied to student attendance along with state testing and the financial impact it may have if we encourage families to keep students home if they are not feeling well. Public attendees wanted to ask questions and they were told to please hold questions until the end during the Public Comment period.

Mr. Slosower brings up a Bill in the State and Assembly S369/A840 that is pending as it “requires the board of education and the trustees or sole trustee of every school district to establish policy and procedures regarding the treatment of transgender or gender non-conforming students.” This might be a topic that we might need to keep an eye on.

Mr. Lumia brings up the students over 21 allowed to stay this year and not being reimbursed by the State. The District has one student this year that fits this criteria. We agreed that we need to keep an eye on this subject and might have to bring it back to the table if the district gains more students or if the order is extended past this school year.

Ms. Johnson stated she wanted to look at the State's ability to pull State Aid after budgets have been passed. She expressed the concern and stress the district went through over the last year and a half should never have occurred.

Trustee Ms. Cahill arrived at 5:15p.m.

Appointment of Community Members

Mr. Slosower stated that we need to go back to item #2 on the agenda - appointment of community members.

First, Ms Migatz

Motion to accept by Ms. Johnson

Second Ms. Cahill

Vote: Yes-Mr. Slosower, Ms. Cahill, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lumia

Unanymous

Second, Ms. Coffman

Motion to accept by Ms. Johnson

Second Ms. Cahill

Vote: Yes- Mr. Sloshower, Ms. Cahill, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Lumia

Unanonymouse

Third, Mr. Rubin

Motion to accept by Mr. Lumia

No second

Ms. Johnson made a motion to table the 3rd member until the next meeting as she sent questions to legal counsel.

Ms. Cahill seconded the motion.

Discussion - Mr. Lumia stated that not approving Mr. Rubin will set a bad precedent and that we must accept this person no matter what. He stated that no matter how we feel about a particular person, if they apply, we have to accept that person on a committee. Ms. Johnson stated she wanted to give time to hear back. Mr. Lumia stated that she would not.

Ms. Cahill asked for clarification on how many community members were permitted on the committee. She was under the impression that there were only spots for two.

Ms. Johnson went to the charter to read aloud the committee make-up section to clarify for all in attendance.

Mr. Sloshower asked for a vote to table the 3rd member.

Vote to table: Yes- Mr. Sloshower, Ms. Cahill, Ms. Johnson

No- Mr. Lumia

Motion passed to table for the next committee meeting.

Mr. Lumia stated he had another meeting and needed to leave, as did community member Mr. Rubin. The time was 5:23 p.m.

The committee went back over the topics that we discussed before Ms. Cahill arrived.

Continued: Charter Review and Goals Discussion

Discussion continued on last year's topic on special education. Mr. Slosower and Ms. Johnson explained for the new members some of the topics that had been discussed at the committee in the past. Also, what was the intent of the topic on the table and some background information on this.

The committee discussed the purpose of the committee and how the annual goals were created, as well as how it impacts the district.

The committee discussed funding tied to attendance. Ms. Coffman asked if the district had the records for the last few years to support this topic.

Last year, one of the committee's topics was student safety. This topic can be included in the work that was already approved at the re-org meeting for anything that can affect reopening in September **(Topic #3)** -- *Immediately have the Legislative Action Committee activated in order to deal with any potential legislation from Albany, any bills, any executive orders, pertaining to school reopening in September.*

The committee discussed the topic regarding Universal Pre-K and requesting permanent funding going forward **(Topic #2)** - *To ensure permanent future funding for Universal Pre-K to avoid this becoming an unfunded mandate.*

The new committee members asked about curriculum and a few other things that fell under the purview of other committees. Mr. Slosower and Ms. Johnson explained that they can pursue those concerns with those other committees.

Committee members discussed that if the charter was approved at the Board meeting on August 9th that Ms. Johnson would speak with Mr. Lolkema regarding the attendance-based funding and the impacts it may have on the district - both COVID and non-COVID ways.

The committee agreed to split into teams to address the topics, as follows:

Team 1- Ms. Johnson and Ms. Migatz topics 1 and 4

Team 2- Ms. Cahill and Ms. Coffman topics 2 and 3

Mr. Slosower would help, where needed, and reminded all that in September the makeup of the committee can change again after students are added. Also, we might have to go back to the Board if the students had something that they wanted to work on.

Ms. Johnson shared that the charter stated that the committee needed to schedule a tentative calendar of meeting dates. Most agreed that Mondays worked best.

Schedule Next Committee Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for August 23rd at 5:15 p.m. in the District Office, if available.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Second by Ms. Migatz

Unanymous

Motion Passed