

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 -- 3:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held remotely via Zoom and live stream to the public at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbmirHxXLln0yrMBhi6XJTA/videos>

Attendees: Eddy Slosower, John S. Morgan, Allison Conti (left at @ 3:36 p.m.), Sanjay Natesan, Carl DeMarco, Jr. , Alberta Pedro

Absent: Rob Rubin, Jaclyn Coffman, John Lumia

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eddy Slosower at 3:07 p.m.

1. **Approve Minutes**

Due to several committee members abstaining on the approval of the November 12 minutes, the District Clerk requested that the Committee rescind the previous motion and make a new motion for the approval of the November 12 minutes.

Motion to reconsider the motion to approve the November 12 minutes was made by Carl DeMarco, Jr.

Second by Allison Conti

Yes: Eddy Slosower, John Morgan, Allison Conti, Sanjay Natesan, Carl DeMarco, Jr.

Motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 12 meeting, as stated.

Motion by John Morgan

Second by Allison Conti

Yes: Eddy Slosower, John Morgan, Allison Conti, Sanjay Natesan, Carl DeMarco, Jr.

Motion passed.

The Committee reviewed the December 1 minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the December 1 meeting, as stated.

Motion by John Morgan

Second by Allison Conti

Yes: Eddy Slosower, John Morgan, Allison Conti, Sanjay Natesan, Carl DeMarco, Jr.

Motion passed.

2. Prioritize Goals

The Board of Education approved the goals for the Legislative Action Committee at their Board meeting on December 7. The goals were approved with only a slight modification. Below are the Board-approved goals for the LAC:

2020-2021 Goals:

- Preventing 20% Reduction/Withholding of State Aid -- \$9.6-11 million
- Funding to Keep Schools Open – Unfunded Mandates to Require School Districts to test for COVID and provide PPE
- Engage with local elected officials through non-partisan means whose representatives are within the Wappingers Central School District
- 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.
- Mental Health (Social Emotional Well Being)
- Student Safety

Chairman Slosower clarified that the mental health goal was related to the impact of COVID-19 on student mental health and how the pandemic has exacerbated the problem. He also clarified the student safety goals were related to last year's objective of excluding the cost of School Resource Officers (SRO) from the tax cap calculation.

Chairman Slosower asked each committee member to rank the goals on a scale of 1-6 with 1 representing the most priority. Below is a chart of the rankings:

	C. DeMarco	S. Natesan	J. Morgan	A. Conti	E. Slosower
20% Withholding	1	1	1	1	1
Keep Schools Open	2	4	4	5	2
Local Elected Officials	6*	6*	2	6	6
Special Ed. Services/IDEA	5	5	6	2	4
Mental Health	3	2	3	3	3

Student Safety	4	3	5	4	5
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**This was felt to be an overarching goal that could be applied to any of the other goals listed.*

Below are the total points for each goal based on individual committee member rankings:

Goal	Total Points
20% Withholding	5
Keep Schools Open	17
Local Elected Officials	26
Special Ed. Services/IDEA	22
Mental Health	14
Student Safety	21

Goals in Order of Priority
20% Withholding
Mental Health
Keep Schools Open
Student Safety
Special Ed. Services/IDEA
Local Elected Officials

Mr. Slosower shared that he recently attended a Municipality Meeting where there was discussion about the possibility of the Dutchess County Department of Health or New York State providing a certain amount of testing kits to school districts should an area be designated Yellow, Orange, or Red Zone. If school districts are designated in one of these zones, they would be required to test a certain percentage of students and staff in order to remain open for instruction. However, nothing has been determined at this time.

Chairman Slosower advised the students that they may volunteer to research and assist on these topics, but their school work is to remain a priority.

Mr. Morgan volunteered to gather information and prepare a draft letter on the 20% reduction/withholding of State Aid. Carl offered to assist.

Mr. Slosower volunteered to work on the mental health topic, along with Sanjay.

Mr. Slosower will ask Mr. Rubin to work on the goal of keeping schools open with the COVID/PPE topic.

At a time uncertain, but at approximately 3:36 p.m., Committee Member Allison Conti was no longer at the meeting, causing the committee to lose a quorum. It was confirmed that Ms. Conti was present during the ranking of the goals; however, it could not be confirmed at what time she was no longer present during the discussion of the assignments. Without a quorum, the committee was no longer able to make decisions and vote, the committee discussed next steps.

3. **Schedule Next Meeting Date** - Chairman Eddy Slosower will schedule a meeting of the committee for either Tuesday or Wednesday next week. The rankings and the proposed assignments for the top 3 goals will be included in the Old Business section of the agenda for approval by the committee.
4. **Adjournment** - the meeting ended at 3:50 p.m.