

September 27, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.

District Offices located at 25 Corporate Park Drive, Hopewell Junction, NY

- PRESENT: Ms. Goodman, Ms. LaValle, Mr. Slosower, Mrs. Kelland (ex-officio)
- ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Cintron, Ms. Torres Henning, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Luongo, Ms. Sen, Ms. Rogan
- Invited Guest: Ms. Pedro, District Clerk

There was no one from the public present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by the District Clerk.	CALL TO ORDER
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| 1.) Pledge of Allegiance | PLEDGE |
| 2.) Appointment of community members to the Legislative Action Committee | APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS |

Each Board member and community member gave a brief introduction of themselves and why they are interested in serving on the Legislative Action Committee.

The Board of Education members of the committee had no objections to the appointment of Ms. Cintron, Ms. Torres Henning, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Luongo, Ms. Sen, and Ms. Rogan as community members of the Legislative Action Committee.

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| 3.) Nomination and Election of Chair of Legislative Action Committee | NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR |
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The District Clerk accepted nominations for the Chairperson of the Legislative Action Committee.

Ms. Torres Henning nominated Eddy Slosower as chair of the Legislative Action Committee, seconded by Ms. Rogan. There were no other nominations. The committee voted unanimously to appoint Eddy Slosower as chairperson of the Legislative Action Committee for the 2016-2017 school year.

Mr. Slosower was now chairperson of the meeting.

- 4.) Selection to volunteer to take minutes (when Alberta can not be present).

MINUTES

Ms. Luongo volunteered to take minutes in the absence of the District Clerk.

- 5.) Review Charter

CHARTER REVIEW

Due to more than three students expressing interest in participating on the Legislative Action Committee and the committee's desire to encourage participation by students, the committee agreed by consensus to revise the charter to indicate, as follows:

Under Composition, item c. ***Up to six*** high school seniors, ***preferably*** one from each school can serve on the committee but will not be counted in the quorum or in the formal vote.

Additionally, the committee agreed to change the total number of committee members of no more than ***16*** to allow for the additional students.

Mr. Sloschower advised the District Clerk to extend an invitation to the students who expressed interest in participating on the committee and invite them to the next meeting.

- 6.) Draft Appeal of Local Assistance Plan (LAP) Letter

DRAFT LAP LETTER

Mr. Sloschower indicated that the committee was tasked with drafting a letter for the Board of Education review regarding the State's denial of the district's appeal of the Wappingers Junior High School Local Assistance Plan designation.

The committee discussed the following items:

- The opt out percentage between the two middle schools was not that different, so how is WJHS designated a LAP school and VWJHS is not
- The district appealed a second time and in both cases, the appeal was denied.
- The opt out movement has made a huge statement and there is a cost associated with that statement
- Students who are enrolled in the Grade 8 Science Honors class take the Earth Science Regents exam. The district also offers those students the Grade 8 Science exam but they are not obliged to take both exams.
- The assessments are not valid or reliable.
- The graduation rate is at 90%.
- Suggestion to send a letter using plain language expressing that there is a problem with the rationale and the mechanism that is in place
- Using data to argue that WJHS should be taken off the LAP designation was already done by the district. The data is flawed.

- The flawed process needs to be communicated.
- The numbers don't reflect reality. Keep the letter simple.
- It should be a one page response.
- Example: Mahopac CSD had a website with links from their efforts to push back on unfunded mandates, etc.
- There are two middle schools with different demographics. When WJHS opted out, the students who took the exam didn't do as well.
- The process is broken and the district is being punished.
- Keep in mind to update the legislature and representative names addressed on the letter after the November elections.

Next Steps:

- The committee members will email their thoughts and ideas to the committee members by October 7.
- Ms. Sen and Ms. Goodman volunteered to meet on October 12 to draft a letter, based on input from the committee members, for the committee's review on October 20.

7.) Committee Meeting Dates

MEETING DATES

The Legislative Action Committee is scheduled to meet on the following date:
Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 6:15 p.m. at the District Offices.

Adjournment

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alberta Pedro
District Clerk