November 15, 2016 @ 6:15 p.m.  
District Offices located at 25 Corporate Park Drive, Hopewell Junction, NY

PRESENT: Ms. Goodman, Mr. Sloshower, Mrs. Kelland (ex-officio)

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Cintron, Ms. Torres Henning, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Luongo, Ms. Sen,

Miss. Minassian, Miss. Susman, Miss. Nardone

Invited Guest: Ms. Pedro, District Clerk

There was no one from the public present.

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| The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairperson Eddy Sloshower. | CALL TO ORDER |
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| 1. Pledge of Allegiance | PLEDGE |
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| 1. Approval of Minutes | MINUTES |
| The minutes were accepted by consensus of the committee with an edit to the date of the committee meeting from October 19 to October 20. |  |
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| 1. Welcome and introduction of student committee member Nicole Nardone, senior class president at John Jay High School | WELCOME |
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| 1. Discussion of Legislative Action Committee Letter | DISCUSSION |
| Ms. Ryan shared that words were being removed from the letter, as written by the committee, during the board meeting. She did not feel the board members on the committee supported the letter during board discussion.  Chairperson Sloshower indicated that the board has the final say on anything done by any committee. Mr. Sloshower wants to ensure that the work of the committee is fully supported by all committee members.  Board President Kelland indicated that she was happy with the letter at the committee meeting but sometimes you must compromise at board meetings. There was agreement on the goal of the letter but the board felt the language should be reconsidered.  The committee thanked Ms. Sen for her work on the draft letter.  Ms. Cintron shared that the committee should include diverse people with diverse ideas and should represent the committee in a positive light.  Ms. Ryan felt that both the committee meetings were productive and the problem was that the excitement was not there at the board meeting.  Ms. Goodman indicated that the board felt the tone of the letter was counterproductive to asking our legislators to lobby on our behalf.  President Kelland offered the suggestion that the committee should have edited the letter to say, “as Commissioner Elia stated…” when referencing the “flawed” standards.  Chairperson Sloshower reminded the committee that the board tabled the letter for revisions by the board who will contribute their thoughts on the letter.  Ms. Torres Henning felt that the committee was a venue for the community to express concerns about what is going on from parents in the community.  President Kelland acknowledged there was a difference amongst the committee members about how to accomplish the goals of the committee.  Ms. Ryan shared that she had an issue with how the board committee members did not stand up or react with enthusiasm to other board members regarding the letter.  Chairperson Sloshower understood that remarks made at the board meeting through a prepared statement against a specific group on the committee set the tone instead of that board member making suggestions to the language in the letter.  Ms. Torres Henning informed the committee that although Commissioner Elia said that the standards are flawed that the State is keeping the testing for the length of time they were intended -- three consecutive years.  President Kelland shared information from the Politics in Education forum that she attended with Superintendent Carrion and Mr. Galletta. |  |
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| 1. Chairperson Sloshower discussed the items on the agenda and the topics that he would like the committee to begin drafting letters. Mr. Sloshower explained that unfunded mandates are when the State requires the district to do something and then gives the district no money to do it. It is estimated that there are 108 unfunded mandates costing the district approximately one million dollars. This poses an undue pressure on the taxpayers and the district. | UNFUNDED MANDATES |
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| 1. Chairperson Sloshower explained the term Gap Elimination Adjustment. Simply, the State needed to pay bills so they made up the shortfall by taking money from school districts. The Wappingers Central School District has been shortchanged $48 million since 2010. And there is no plan for the State to pay districts back. NYSSBA is fighting for the GAP money to be returned to the districts. | GEA |
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| Ms. Goodman added that the district can not raise taxes beyond the tax cap of 2% max or the rate of inflation without a supermajority vote of 60% of the voters.  One factor of many in State Aid calculations is enrollment. State Aid calculations may change to be based on enrollment which may negatively impact WCSD as we have experienced a declining enrollment.  The committee also discussed the uncertainty of the impact of the President-Elect’s policies on education, the standards, and appointments to key educational positions. | TAX CAP  STATE AID  CHANGE IN GOV’T |
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| **Next Steps:**   * Mr. Sloshower encouraged the students to work collaboratively to draft a letter on any of the topics that interest them. The committee values their input and encourages the students to express their concerns with the committee. * The committee members will begin to prepare ideas to draft letters on to following topics: unfunded mandates and the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA) | NEXT STEPS |
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| 1. Committee Meeting Date | MEETING DATE |
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| The Legislative Action Committee is scheduled to meet on the following date:  **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:15 p.m. at the District Offices.** |  |
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| Adjournment | ADJOURNMENT |
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| The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. |  |
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Respectfully Submitted,

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Alberta Pedro

District Clerk