

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 19, 2018
5:15 p.m. – Public Session
District Office, 25 Corporate Park Drive, Business Office Conference Room
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Legislative Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Eddy Sloshower, Peggy Kelland, James Spencer, Linda Rappaport (arrived 5:28 p.m.), Karen Karath (arrived 5:38 p.m.), Marie Johnson, Alberta Pedro

Absent: Michaela Rumley (RCK), Jayna Bryant (JJ)

Public: No one from the public was present.

1. Chairman Eddy Sloshower called the meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes - The Committee agreed by consensus to approve the minutes.
3. Letter on Impact of Cost Increases due to Delay of SSBA Approval Process - the District's Smart Schools Bond Act has been approved by the State Education Department, however we have not received the updated cost estimates from the architect. The material can not be switched out for material at a lower costs but there may be flooring options that may reduce the cost of the project. The security vestibules will go out for bid in January.

A draft letter was prepared by L. Rappaport and P. Kelland which includes the timeline provided by D. Lolkema. The Committee was unsure of the purpose of the letter. The Committee discussed the whether the purpose of the letter was to make the State aware of the consequences of a delay in approval of projects because there is not a proper structure in place ultimately costing local districts more money. The Wappingers Central School District acted quickly by submitting plans once the SSBA grant became available. The delay places students in jeopardy. The SSBA legislation was developed to provide districts with a means to obtain security and technology. The Committee read the draft letter and provided some revisions. Committee discussed involving NYSSBA to lead the charge in this endeavor. This was one of the NYSSBA resolutions which

was approved at the Convention, however it is unsure the weight applied to each individual resolution. The local legislators need to say what are the handicaps put into the legislation to cause this backlog. It is a lack of manpower. The solution was a third party review of plan within 9 weeks rather than 9 months; but districts have to pay for it. This is a reimbursement process where districts pay upfront and are then reimbursed by the State. The letter will include language that the funds could have been utilized for other projects but will now have to cover the increased cost of the project due to the delay in the approval process. In addition, the delay in approval of the project may place our students in danger. The Committee agreed that the purpose of the letter is to let the State know that although we would like the State to reimburse us for the difference in the cost of this project, we hope the State will streamline and expedite the process especially for projects that include security issues and to be transparent in the timeline for district budgetary planning. Ms. Rappaport will ask Kristen how the delay affects the budgetary planning process and that will be included in the letter. She will also follow up with Daren Lolkema to see if there is a timeline provided in the SSBA packet before stating an issue about transparency in the timeline. Another draft will be provided at the next Committee meeting. The Committee will present the letter to the Board as a discussion item on Jan. 28 with a resolution for approval in Feb.

4. Continue Discussion on Diversity - tabled to next meeting, as the students were not present at the meeting to discuss. Mr. Slosower will email the students to find out the progress they are making on this topic
5. Update on Special Education Surveys - There are now 33 responses to the Special Ed survey and 21 responses to the RTI survey. The committee members will review the responses. At the next meeting, the Committee will update the template from last year for a presentation at an upcoming Board meeting.
6. Schedule Next Meeting Date: The LAC will meet on **Wednesday, January 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office.**
7. School Guidance Plan - Mr. Zipp provided an estimate of the additional cost to be in alignment with the State guidelines, with a minimum of \$150,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000. Services must be delivered by certified guidance counselors. Ms. Kelland indicated that a guidance counselor would need to meet each grade 6 student in either an one-to-one or small group setting. This is an unfunded mandate. The Committee discussed drafting a letter and the

Committee was in favor. Another concern expressed by the Committee was the need for enough certified guidance counselors to fill the positions. The Committee will get more information as we go along. Please bring any questions forward to Alberta and we will craft questions to administration.

8. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.