

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting
Monday, October 29, 2018
5:30 p.m. – Public Session
District Office, 25 Corporate Park Drive, Multi Purpose Conference Room
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Agenda

1. Elect Chairperson
 2. Meet and Greet Committee Members
 3. Discussion of Topics to address for upcoming year
 4. Schedule Next Meeting Date
 5. Adjournment
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Legislative Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Eddy Sloshower, Peggy Kelland, James Spencer (arrived 5:48 p.m.), Linda Rappaport, Marie Johnson, Alberta Pedro, Michaela Rumley (RCK), Jayna Bryant (JJ)

Absent: Karen Karath

Public: No one from the public was present.

1. District Clerk called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. Nominations for Chair of the Legislative Action Committee were conducted.
 - a. Peggy Kelland nominated Eddy Sloshower, seconded by Linda Rappaport. There were no other nominations. Motion carried and accepted by Mr. Sloshower.
 - b. Mr. Sloshower provided an overview of the focus topic from last year's work of the Committee which was *Special Education Mandates in New York State*. The presentation is available on the committee's webpage at <https://www.wappingersschools.org/cms/lib/NY01001463/Centricity/Domain/20/Special%20Education%20Referral%20and%20Program%20Services.pdf>.
 - c. Motion by Marie Johnson, second by Linda Rappaport to send out the RTI and Special Education Surveys from last year to the entire special education department in order to gather data from a larger pool of

respondents. Motion approved. Unanimous. Mr. Sloslower will email Mr. Zipp to request the surveys be sent out.

3. Meet and Greet Committee Members

- a. Mr. Sloslower introduced Board members Linda Rappaport and James Spencer, as well as Peggy Kelland, the Board President. He also introduced community member and parent Marie Johnson who served on the committee last year. He also shared that Karen Karath, a community member, was not able to be present at today's meeting but is a former board member and has experience in legislation and advocacy.
- b. Mr. Sloslower welcomed the students and thanked them for volunteering to serve on the committee. Mr. Sloslower spoke with the Principal of Orchard View AHS who will inquire if there is a junior who might be interested in serving on the committee, as there has been no interest from the senior population.
- c. Jayna Bryant introduced herself as a senior from John Jay High School. She is interested in the medical field and enjoys math and science. She would like work toward making the district culturally inclusive and aware so that the school can be more together.
- d. Michaela Rumley is a senior at RCK High School. She likes engineering and dance. She participates in the Project Lead the Way program. She would like to get a sense of the work of the Board and be a voice for the students. She would like to increase course options at the high schools.
- e. The Committee discussed researching Education Law and regulations to see if the law provides any guideline as to districts being required to offer the same course offerings when the district has multiple high schools. The committee discussed that it may be a district level decision where a number of issues must be considered including safety, liability, transportation, and student enrollment in a course. The District Clerk reminded the Committee to ensure that the focus is on the legislative advocacy issue regarding this topic which is under the purview of the committee charter. The District Clerk will email the link of the New York State Education Law and Regs to the committee members for further research by the students.
- f. The Committee discussed working on diversity and cultural awareness. It is important to lobby in Albany. President Kelland shared a resolution from the NYSSBA Convention which was approved by the voting delegates. The District Clerk will email the resolution to the committee members. It was Resolution 19, which reads as follows:

Resolution 19 was amended and replaced with the following, "Resolved, the New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) shall take a leadership role in raising awareness and understanding of the importance of all school district leaders in understanding and taking action to address disproportionality in the education workforce and in student outcomes as it relates to diverse backgrounds.

In carrying out this mission, NYSSBA shall:

**Develop training focused on cultural competency and diligently promote, encourage, and facilitate access to all school boards;*

**Encourage school boards to invite discussions with students, parents, staff and the board to develop district action plans that address staffing, student outcomes, and the school climate in a manner that improves cultural competency, diversity, and inclusivity; and*

**Take an active role in collaborating with other groups, including but not limited to the New York State Board of Regents, NYSCOSS, SAANYS, NYSUT and other members of the Educational Conference Board to encourage them jointly to promote such training and conversations about their members and constituencies."*

- g. The Committee discussed a focus area of State Testing and APPR. The Committee discussed a student's perspective on learning based on teaching-to-the-test versus learning beyond regents preparation. At the elementary level, it's the skills that are being taught rather than the content.
 - h. The students agreed that they would collaborate on the focus area of diversity.
- 4. Possible Areas of Focus for 2018-2019
 - a. Resend Special Education and RtI Surveys
 - b. Increase Diversity Awareness
 - c. State Testing & APPR
 - 5. Schedule Next Meeting Date: The LAC will meet on Monday, November 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office.
 - 6. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.