

Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
5:30 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 (arrived 5:35 p.m.), James Spencer, Linda Rappaport, Karen Karath, Marie Johnson, Allison Conti, Alberta Pedro, Michaela Rumley (RCK), Jayna Bryant (JJ)

Public: No one from the public was present.

1. Chairman Eddy Sloshower called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes - Motion to approve the December 19th committee minutes made by James Spencer, second by Marie Johnson.
Motion Passed. Unanimous.

The Committee discussed the third party review which would shorten the approval process from 9 months to 9 weeks.

3. Approval of Third Community Member to the Committee - Ms. Conti introduced herself as a parent of two students in the district. She is passionate about this committee and is excited to participate.

Motion to approve the appointment of Allison Conti as a community member on the Legislative Action Committee for the 2018-19 school year made by James Spencer, second by Karen Karath.
Motion Passed, Unanimous.

4. Continue Discussion on Diversity - Student Project - Students collaborated and prepared documents where they shared ideas on the diversity project. The students will spend more time and merge their documents together as a powerpoint presentation. The students will draft the powerpoint and the committee, as a whole, will edit and review the presentation. The students

presented the idea of creating a diversity mentorship program at the high schools where students can partner with someone who has recently moved into the district from the same former home area. The Committee recommended that the students share their work with Alberta who will share it with the other committee members. The students requested to send a survey to other students to gather input. The Committee will work to include tie-in to legislative advocacy around the topic of diversity at the State and local level in the final presentation.

5. Finalize Letter on Impact of Cost Increases due to Delay of SSBA Approval Process - President Kelland spoke on this topic at the recent Dutchess County School Boards Association (DCSBA) Legislative Breakfast. She recommended that since this meeting was about two weeks ago, being able to follow up with the letter drafted by the committee would be ideal as the district can continue to drive home the message to the legislators. In addition, on February 11th, both Linda Rappaport and Peggy Kelland are scheduled to meet with legislators and staff up in Albany at the NYSSBA Convention. Mr. Slosower shared that Ron Broas, Director of Facilities and Operations, indicated that the bid walk throughs on the security vestibules is scheduled for January 24 and 25, with a bid opening on February 5th. We anticipate having the final cost estimates for the project in two weeks. The Committee discussed the intended recipients of the letter. Information provided by another district shared that they believe the State intentionally backlogged the approval process on purpose so they only put out a certain amount of money at a certain time. Response by district administration indicated that delay is due to shortage in staffing.

The committee expects the cost of the project will be impacted due to the increased cost of the materials, labor, tariffs, etc.

Motion to approve the letter subject to the final cost estimates made by Marie Johnson, second by James Spencer.

Motion Passed, Unanimous.

6. Update on Special Education Surveys - Both surveys were sent to 1 Director, 8 Assistant Directors, 143 Special Education Teachers, 18 Psychologists, 13 Social Workers, and 24 Guidance Counselors for a total of 207 staff members. There were 33 responses to the Special Ed survey (16%) and 21 responses to the RTI survey (10%). 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. Ms. Johnson will send Alberta staff comments to insert into the presentation. The Committee will review the presentation at the next meeting.

7. Progress on Effects on Common Core on Graduating Seniors - Student Project - Student recreated survey monkey and posted it. She received 19 responses and selected the most important ones. Committee discussed the cross section of students who were surveyed. The seniors are the first graduating class in the district to experience the transition to the Common Core and the Committee is interested in learning how the change affected the students. The Committee discussed adding questions and editing some of the questions. The students will share the survey with both Alberta and Mr. Sloshower. Mr. Sloshower will email Dr. Cardwell and Dr. Bonk to request the three high school principals share the survey with seniors at Orchard View AHS, RCK, and JJHS. The seniors present recommended that the survey be sent with a deadline of one week. Once the responses are received the Committee will discuss whether they will move forward with a letter or with a presentation to the Board and the community. Another idea is to invite Dr. Cardwell to the meeting to review the responses.
8. Unfunded Mandate for School Counselors - This item was tabled to the next meeting.
9. Schedule next meeting date - The next Legislative Action Committee meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 5:45 p.m. at DO Multipurpose Room.
10. Adjournment
 - a. The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.