

**Wappingers Central School District Legislative Action Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, March 25, 2019**  
**5:30 p.m. – Public Session**  
**District Office, 25 Corporate Park Drive, Multi-Purpose Room**  
**Hopewell Junction, NY 12533**

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**Legislative Action Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Eddy Sloshower, Peggy Kelland, James Spencer, Linda Rappaport, Karen Karath (arrived 5:41 pm), Marie Johnson, Allison Conti, Alberta Pedro

**Not Present:** Jayna Bryant (JJ), Michaela Rumley (RCK)

**Public:** No one from the public was present.

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1. Chairman Eddy Sloshower called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Approve Minutes - The Committee approved the Feb. 19 committee minutes by consensus.
3. Update on Student Survey - Chairman Eddy Sloshower will request an item on the agenda seeking Board approval to send out the student Common Core survey.

The Committee discussed student assignments and participation on committees. Student input and feedback is important. Committee members discussed how the proposed *Board Committees Policy* may be interpreted that it restricts the students from participating in things that are important. It was expressed that the proposed changes in policy seem to be a direct result of this particular survey.

One recommendation was that the Charter of the Legislative Action Committee be revised to include student input to the Board. The following list contains the Purpose of the committee, as stated in the charter:

1. *Prepare recommendations on positions and action for the Board with respect to federal and state educational priorities and proposed legislation.*

2. *Provide a mechanism to discover community opinion related to legislative and regulatory matters that impact the District.*
3. *Review current and proposed legislation and make informational reports to the Board, as appropriate.*
4. *Attend appropriate local boards and forums, as well as county, state, regional, and national legislative forums or bodies.*

To date, the Legislative Action Committee has successfully prepared letters to the legislators and an initial presentation to the Board on special education. Last year, there was an attorney on the Committee, who had a specialization in special education and who was instrumental in the development of the survey questions submitted to staff last year. In addition, there were two students on the Committee who provided input to the questions. The Committee needs to ensure that student projects are aligned with the Legislative Action Committee Charter. The Board had the opportunity to review and approve the letters prior to dissemination to State and local legislators, and the District administration had the opportunity to edit the survey questions prior to dissemination to staff members.

Several Committee members believe that the proposed language in the policy should be clarified. The proposed language would prevent Board Committees from assigning students any assignments or tasks. The Committee discussed rewording the proposed policy to say, "*that the students are welcome to volunteer.*" President Kelland offered to share the explanation provided to Mr. Slosower regarding the recommendation from the Policy Committee to revise the Board Committees policy with the other committee members. The Committee encourages student participation.

The Committee reviewed each of the Common Core survey questions to ensure they are not leading questions. The Committee discussed the importance of encouraging the students to participate in the discussion when formulating the survey questions. The Committee is actively mentoring the students. Below are the questions on the Common Core Survey:

1. *How did you feel when Common Core was made a part of the curriculum?*
2. *Do you feel that the Common Core curriculum affected your learning (harder, easier)?*
3. *Is there anything else you would like to comment on this topic?*
4. *How could the school have better helped with the transition to the Common Core?*

The Committee agreed to delete question #4. The Committee agreed to submit the survey with three questions to the seniors at the high schools, as they are the first graduating class who experienced the transition to the Common Core. Members of the Committee agreed to modify question #2 to include the following, "Easier, harder, both; please explain." The Committee shared that the main focus of the survey is how the students did with switching methodologies midpoint and how it affected their learning. The Committee discussed how the information from the outcome of the survey will be used. It was suggested that the Legislative Action Committee could write a letter letting the State know the effects of the transition and that future roll out is important. We are six years down the road when the students first started Common Core and how it will be interesting to see the effect of the transition to Common Core on students as teachers are more grounded in the work they do. The Committee proposed doing the survey over the next five years so that all the data is captured. There needs to be clear goals of the survey -- gather information over the next six years and present it to legislators to improve any future impact of standards and letting the District roll out, as appropriate.

4. Review Special Education Survey Powerpoint -

The Committee reviewed the powerpoint slides and responses in the survey to ensure that the responses were representative of the results shown in the pie charts. Chairman Slosower will request 15 minutes on the agenda for an updated presentation to the Board on the responses to the special education survey.

5. Review Diversity Presentation -

This agenda item was tabled to the next Committee meeting.

6. Schedule next meeting date - The next Legislative Action Committee meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 5:30 p.m. at District Office Multipurpose Room.

7. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.