

**DISTRICT 58 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of February 15, 2017**

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 3:45 p.m. at the Administrative Service Center.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:52 p.m.

**Present**

Gwendolyn Box, Kathy Catalani, Tony Coglianesse, Megan Hewitt, John Miller (chair), Matt Neustadt, Elizabeth Sigale, and Bruce Swanson. Also in attendance was Darren Hughes (Board member candidate).

**Absent**

Kari Cremascoli, Roberta Diehl (ex officio), Geoff Neustadt, Lorie Pilster, Angie Rybarczyk, Marty Scott, and Bob Trojanowski.

**Approval of Minutes**

Kathy Catalani moved and Bruce Swanson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

**Legislative Breakfast**

The Legislative Breakfast will take place Friday, March 10, 2017 at O'Neill Middle School. The Committee discussed the breakfast's format and agreed to follow a similar structure to last year. Megan Hewitt presented draft questions, compiled in collaboration with Kari Cremascoli, Lori Pilster and David Bein. The Committee reviewed each question, organized the questions, and assigned Committee members to read each question at the Breakfast. Input will be given and questions revised as needed. Topics for the questions are as follows:

- The State's education budget
- Property tax freezes and Senate Bill 13
- Pension cost shifts
- Newly-elected Rep. David Olsen's efforts to engage in public education issues
- The Department of Education's top priorities
- The PARCC assessment's future
- Special education funding formulas
- Illinois's tax code

Rep. David Olsen, Sen. Chris Nybo and Rep. Patti Bellock have each informally accepted the invitation to the Legislative Breakfast. Invitations were sent to the legislators in late January. All other invitations have also been sent.

John Miller suggested the District invite Mayor Martin Tully to join the Legislative Breakfast panel. This suggestion will be shared for consideration.

O'Neill's newspaper and media clubs were invited to send a student to report on the breakfast. Both club moderators indicated interest and plan to send a student

### **Legislative Update**

The Committee briefly discussed Gov. Bruce Rauner's budget address.

### **PTA Communications**

None

### **IEA, NEA Concerns**

Kathy Catalani shared that although Senate Bill 11 failed, pension cost shift discussions continue. The IEA, along with the We Are One Illinois coalition, oppose any legislation that would shift pension costs from the State onto suburban/downstate school districts.

### **Other Concerns**

District 58 recently invited parents to complete a Board Committee application. The Board hopes to add two parent positions to each committee of the Board. Eighteen parents applied for the Legislative Committee and copies of those applications were shared. It was suggested the Committee invite all applicants to attend the next Legislative Committee meeting as guests to gain a better understanding of the Committee's work. John Miller and Elizabeth Sigale requested full Board input before selecting new Committee members.

### **Reception of Visitors**

No comments were made at this time.

### **Adjournment**

Tony Coglianese moved and Kathy Catalani seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.