



Community Unit School District 308

SERVING ALL OR PARTS OF THE COMMUNITIES OF
AURORA, JOLIET, MONTGOMERY, OSWEGO, PLAINFIELD, AND YORKVILLE

LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Oswego East High School – Room C217

Monday, April 27, 2015

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

I. Roll Call

*Meeting called to order at 5:38 p.m. by Board of Education Member and Committee Chair
Mr. Greg O'Neil*

The attendance sheet was used in place of an official roll call

Members in Attendance: Alexa Backus, Michael Blaylock, Tracy Collander, Anne Elwood,
Kevin Harris, Amanda Mancke, Jamil Nichols, Brian Valek, Natalie Winkfield
Dr. Matthew Wendt, Superintendent
Board Member: Greg O'Neil

Guests in Attendance: No guests were present

Members Absent: Melissa Woolever

Recording Secretary: Ursula Coan

II. Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2015 Meeting

*A motion was made by Mr. O'Neil to approve the minutes from the April 6, 2015 meeting.
All members in attendance agreed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.*

III. Updates on Bills and Waivers – Dr. Wendt

We are making progress on bills and waivers. None of our bills and waivers are in any jeopardy. Our construction grant bill passed the House and picked up sponsors in the House and the Senate. The presentations for our Legislators should be kept short. We need to simply state our situation and make sure we are not lecturing. We have come a long way with our Legislators, building a respectful relationship. First we need to forge those relationships and second, we need to say a big thank you for all they do to support us! Under no circumstances can we come across as hostile or angry. Dr. Wendt stated that he was not sure if Linda Chapa LaVia would attend the breakfast. He told the committee that there were some hurt feelings with the Dual Language issue that needed to be overcome.

Representatives Kifowit and Wheeler are huge supporters and have worked very hard on our behalf. Senator Holmes is the sponsor for Stephanie Kifowit's bill. She will also be at the breakfast.

IV. Discussion of Unfunded Mandates

There are a lot of unfunded mandates on our list. They need to be prioritized by the ones that give us the most trouble. For this committee and our presentation, we need to identify three or four of them. Everyone in our breakfast group is going to be aware of this unfunded mandate push. The Governor's office is forming a taskforce to deal with the unfunded mandates. We will just want to make sure they know, that we join everyone else in their concerns.

We need to pick the ones that have the biggest financial impact to our district. We need to be able to put a number to it, that will bring the point across.

Dr. Wendt mentioned an example of how much time it takes a district employee to respond to all FOIA's that come in. We have now started to attach a cost to each FOIA. Dr. Wendt also pointed out a mandate that requires a school to show the film "Congressional Medal of Honor" in Junior High and again in High School. That time could be better spent on critical thinking activities or direct instruction. Senator Bertino-Tarrant is all over the state's unfunded mandates. I wonder if she would be able to provide the ones to us that have the best chance. Whichever ones she can get addressed, is good news for us! There are some on here that I, as a school superintendent, would not want to see go away. Policies have to be followed, for example, how many people are employed to simply check compliance. We employ a person just to process Medicaid billing. How many times during a 10 year period should this building be checked by Fire Marshall's, to make sure we have a building that meets all codes (ROE). This is done annually and we receive a grade for it. I requested that we should spray dandelions. That can't be done, we are not allowed to use pesticides. We can travel to Springfield and be more general in our presentations.

V. Final Plans Springfield – Trip

Broke out into sub committees to make plans for presentations

VI. Public Comment (3 minutes each)

There were no individuals present for public comment.

VII. Adjourn

A motion was made by Mr. Greg O'Neil to adjourn. All present were in favor to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 21, 2015