

Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, 11/8/2021

1. New Business

- Update PRAL Committee Meeting calendar

2. Public Relations

- Updates on initiating an annual website audit
- Running list of Board/District benchmarks

3. Advocacy

- Local advocacy
 - Closure of Matteawan Road - Updates and next steps
- Regional advocacy through LHEC
 - Foundation Aid - NYSSBA and LHEC are both advocating on this issue. Here is LHEC's statement: "Adequate and representative state aid should be calculated using current data that reflects changing demographics, enrollment, poverty, regional costs and special education needs."
 - State Aid Formulas - From LHEC: "Regional Cost Index (RCI) - The most recent RCI data should be applied to all State Aid formulas, and the Lower Hudson Valley should be included with the NYC/Long Island region."
- State advocacy through NYSSBA that we may want to support:
 - No-excuse absentee ballots - The ballot proposal failed, but Sue Serino supported this measure, so we may have an opportunity to effectively advocate for it.
 - Open Meetings Law - NYSSBA resolution passed advocating for an amendment to this law to allow for more use of remote meeting technology and all-online meetings, and to "authorize committees of a public body to meet through the use of videoconferencing without a fixed location for the meeting."
 - Foundation Aid - NYSSBA also passed a resolution supporting "state legislation that would evaluate the efficacy of, and require use of accurate, recent data in future implementation of Foundation Aid."
 - NYSSBA Resolutions for 2022 - Plan to re-submit BCSD resolutions below next year. In the meantime, do we want to make any adjustments to the text?

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RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation at the state level that would set limits on the start time for schools, to be no earlier than 8 AM.

RATIONALE

Extremely early school start times are detrimental to a student's learning and health. According to the American Academy of Pediatricians, inadequate sleep in adolescents can lead to obesity, diabetes, increased anxiety, depression, cognitive impairment, memory problems, and drowsy driving. Ultimately, these issues impact academic achievement and graduation rates. Given that districts must coordinate their schedules for extracurricular activities, including sports, this is not a decision that can be successfully implemented at the local level. New York State must set limits on the start time for schools, to be no earlier than 8 am.

RESOLVED, that the New York State School Boards Association supports legislation at the state level that would allow for school board members to receive a stipend for their work as a trustee

RATIONALE

Participation on a school board is an important form of public service, with a direct impact on the quality of life for children and communities. It is a volunteer position that requires a serious time commitment with no financial compensation. A small stipend would pose minimal cost to a district's overall budget and would widen the pool of possible candidates for the position. While there are minimal qualifications required to become a board member, the time commitment required may be a barrier to participation for community members who are not in a financial position to give away their time. This is especially true for parents who may not be able to afford the cost of childcare during the board meetings. We believe that offering a stipend for members could mitigate such challenges, and will encourage a more diverse pool of candidates that better represent the student body in most public school districts.

4. Legislative

- LHEC online Legislative Panel with NYS legislators - 12/13/21, 6:30-8:30 pm
- NYSSBA in-person Legislative Lobby Day in Albany - 2/9/22
- Gather a list of issues to ask and advocate on during these meetings
- Partisan Board Elections in Tennessee: <https://bit.ly/3GPw8zU>

Submitted by Flora Stadler
Committee Chair