

# Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

## Meeting Notes

Monday, 11/8/2021

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### 1. New Business

- Update PRAL Committee Meeting calendar - **PRAL Committee meetings will take place at 6 pm before the first board meeting of every month:**
  - December 13, 2021
  - January 10, 2022
  - February 7, 2022
  - March 7, 2022
  - April 4, 2022
  - May 2, 2022
  - June 6, 2022

### 2. Public Relations

- Updates on initiating an annual website audit - **This should involve each person who is responsible for updating the website for their department/school. We can provide an online form to go through and ensure the website is correctly formatted and the info is up-to-date. This committee can also be responsible for looking through the website once per year and coming to a designated meeting with recommendations.**
- Running list of Board/District benchmarks - **The District is working on putting this together and can discuss at an upcoming board meeting**
- **The district is also starting a monthly digital newsletter. The first edition is set to go out before Thanksgiving.**
- **BOCES is putting together classroom posters with board goals and student skills and attributes.**
- **Dr. Landahl is also looking at instituting a communications review at each school.**

### 3. Advocacy

- Local advocacy
  - Closure of Matteawan Road - Updates and next steps. **Buses are currently allowed to go through. The city is looking into building another road and has applied for a grant.**
- 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

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- 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. **PRAL will put together a statement for the future. There may be an opportunity to fold in some other issues, as well.**
  - 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.” **NY State is doing a review on this, through the Committee on Open Govt. Frequency issue.**
  - 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? **No edits requested**

## 4. Legislative

- LHEC online Legislative Panel with NYS legislators - 12/13/21, 6:30-8:30 pm
  - In the past, it’s been open to the entire board to make suggestions. **Putting together a list to share with board and discuss at next board meeting**
- NYSSBA in-person Legislative Lobby Day in Albany - 2/9/22. **We will need to have a punch list of issues ready.**

Submitted by Flora Stadler  
Committee Chair