

Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

6/6/2022

1. Public Relations

- Committee Comments & Recommendations:
 - Board Retreat - A Culture of Leadership, 90-minute presentation on how school boards can positively affect district culture by examining each member's ability to model leadership; discuss and implement simple but effective adjustments in process, communication and behaviors; with an ongoing professional development plan that is communicated to the community. The session will be led by Patrick Longo, Member Relations Manager, NYSSBA
- Updates on plan to have BOCES print Bulldog Bulletin for local distribution.
- Next steps to create a flyer that outlines major benefits/accomplishments of the district for local distribution: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9ymset>

2. Advocacy

- **CLPCA Testimony:** Finalize [draft document](#) for board vote, discuss next steps.
- **Free School Meals:** Finalize advocacy statement and language to share with PTOs and in PRAL section of BCSD website (using LHEC's Voter Voice app (<http://www.lhec.org/votervoic.html>)).
- **Universal Pre-K:** Update on draft advocacy letter, next steps
- **Electric Buses:**
 - Updates on plans to organize a workshop (if any).
 - Possible advocacy around LHEC recommendations that were not included: <https://bit.ly/3meivBq>
 - Tentative plan from DCSBA to conduct an "education session" for members to offer more insight on the issue

3. Legislative

- **2022 Summer Law Conference:** Topics include teacher shortages, new laws and regulations affecting public education, court and administrative decisions, increase in FOIL requests, collective bargaining in 2022. Virtual, July 28-29
- **Capital Projects:** <https://nwsdy.li/3mcV9Mp>. The legislation, S.8803 (Mayer) / A.9988 (McDonald), would amend the state constitution to increase the debt limit for capital projects for small city districts from 5% to 10%. All other fiscally independent school districts in the state already have a 10% statutory limit. Passed Assembly 6/2.
- **Open Meetings (NYS):** No word yet from the Committee on Open Government regarding the new section 103A authorizing videoconferencing. BCSD BOE should move ahead with its own policy on this. Here is a good Q&A: <https://on.nyc.gov/3NbKxcB>.

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- **APPR:** Earlier this month Gov. Hochul signed into law S.8276-A (Mayer)/A.9600 (Benedetto), eliminating the requirement that school districts conduct APPR (annual professional performance reviews) for the current 2021-22 school year. NYSSBA supported the cancellation of APPR for a third consecutive year. Potential implications of this ongoing cancellation?
- **Bill S7666A (NYS):** Moved to the Senate Rules Committee on 6/3, most bills go here before heading to the floor
- **Changes to Title IX (Federal):** “The Biden administration is expected to soon release its proposed Title IX regulations almost a year after kicking off its review of the federal civil rights law prohibiting sex discrimination in schools. The new version will be the third set of policies in just as many administrations. The repeated overhaul has brought significant changes to school staff and operations.” An interesting timeline of Title IX: <https://bit.ly/3zm38id>
- **Section 504 (Federal):** US DOE is still gathering input on possible amendments to strengthen and protect the rights of students with disabilities. Send comments to Section504@ed.gov. On a related note, OCR will soon launch 100 new compliance reviews examining digital accessibility in elementary and secondary schools and districts, covering online learning, public-facing websites, and parent-resource and communications platforms to ensure compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act.