

Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 1, 8 pm

1. Issues & Legislation for 2020-21 School Year

- a. Upcoming election - If [S.4430](#) (reducing number of signatures required to run for BOE 2021 election), the district will let the public know via social media, church bulletins and in the press, linking to the Candidate Info page <https://www.beaconk12.org/Page/1573>. The signature packet will be available on the website. Craig is working on a press release.
- b. [Mandating state tests](#) - Meredith writing a follow-up letter in opposition to the state testing requirement.
- c. Local Progress advocacy wants to change focus of COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Program through the Dept of Justice. - We're awaiting NYSSBA's response on this.
- d. [BOE statement on Executive Budget](#) - Asking the Board if we're ok sending a Letter to the Editor of the Highlands Current, sharing BCSD budget issues and our legislative response.
- e. Changes to Department of Health guidelines for schools based on what we've learned since last year. - Speaking with legislators before moving ahead with any advocacy on this.

2. Advocacy

- a. Updates on regional advocacy - LHEC has released an advocacy statement on the budget. Matt will check if this was sent to the Clerk.
- b. The district will include advocacy updates on various channels (website/social media/newsletter) to make the community aware of current legislative issues and how they can advocate. Matt will include this statement:

School budgets face very steep cuts due to the economic strain caused by COVID-19. NYSSBA's Governmental Relations team has created letters you can send to your state and federal representatives during budget negotiations. You can edit the letters with district-specific information or send as-is. Submit the [federal stimulus action letter](#) and the [state budget advocacy letter](#).