

Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 1, 8 pm

1. Issues & Legislation for 2020-21 School Year

- a. Upcoming election - [S.4430](#) to reduce the number of signatures needed to run for the Board of Education in 2021 - 50 signatures for Beacon. If/when this passes, we should advertise on newsletter, blog, and in papers (with link: <https://www.beaconk12.org/Page/1573?>). Can we have a downloadable packet online, or do people have to pick it up in person?
- b. [Mandating state tests](#) - How do we respond?
- c. Local Progress advocacy wants to change focus of COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Program through the Dept of Justice. LP questions:
 1. Are you aware if your school system currently gets COPS funding? If so, do you have a sense of how much and what for?
 2. Could you provide us with a short quote or testimonial of what you would use the federal grant money for if you could use it broadly for school safety? In other words, do you have specific programs that foster school safety would benefit from federal funding?
 3. Would you participate in a meeting with the DOJ or Congress?
- d. [BOE statement on Executive Budget](#) - Is it useful for us to share this with parents, maybe by highlighting it in the newsletter or on social media? Helps Sets a baseline understanding of the budget challenges the district potentially faces, and may encourage others to advocate.
- e. Changes to Department of Health guidelines for schools based on what we've learned since last year.
 1. New York Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said social distancing guidelines could be revised as soon as this week. Possibly to 3 feet?
 2. The CDC put together guidelines for schools last week: <https://bit.ly/2O7O6qB>
 3. Would a response be useful?

2. Advocacy

- a. Updates on regional advocacy - LHEC has released an advocacy statement on the budget that is supposed to list all supporting districts, but I'm not sure if it was sent to BCSD office
- b. Call with state legislator - TBD
- c. Can we create an "Advocacy Alert" on the website/blog/newsletter? With updates like this:

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

Public Relations, Advocacy & Legislative Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 1, 8 pm

can edit the letters with district-specific information or send as-is. Submit the [federal stimulus action letter](#) and the [state budget advocacy letter](#).

3. Website Update

- a. When to officially announce the new website?
- b. Timeline for inclusion of audit info in recommended location on website
- c. Promotion of new website (including across [BCSD-related social media](#))

Recommendations for promotion include:

- Superintendent blog
- Newsletter
- Posting across social media