

Board Legislative Committee Minutes

July 1, 2011

Meeting called to order at 8:02 a.m. Members present: Patti Fields and Michael Shaw. Also present: Ann Feldmann, Assistant Superintendent

Members discussed the end of 2011 session, which closed yesterday, June 30. Highlights included:

- No change in property tax rate
- Open records (if recess for 4 hours, must repost; language on open records for contracts; if someone terminated for cause, public may view these records)
- Zero percent allowable growth for 2011-12 and 2% for 2012-13

This will be an election year, so we may want to focus on topics that will not be too controversial

Potential 2011-12 Statewide IASB Priorities

- Pre-school
- PPEL fund flexibility---could explain “cliff” and how this could help us mitigate the impact of the loss of state or federal funding
- Allowable growth for 2013-14: perhaps information as to how property tax reduction will impact us/Hold us harmless for reducing commercial property tax

We could bring the three above forward to IASB, while we focus our energy on one (work hard locally to build support around one focused aim); discussed making “PPEL flexibility” the focused topic as it can impact all 12,000 kids—we can explain how this would allow us to save general fund money for staff; want to build allies, communication, planned messaging, research on this topic

Legislative Committee will develop federal legislative priorities

Need to consciously determine how we can collaborate with other educational partners (Iowa State Education Association, School Administrators of Iowa, Urban Education Network, Service Employees International Union, Chamber of Commerce); choosing priorities that can empower our message by being unified

Need to discuss as a board what should happen if a board member or district administrator takes an official stance on behalf of the district on a legislative topic that the board hasn’t endorsed (e.g. charter school laws): anything other than our priorities may distract from our identified mission. We would like to ask the Governance Committee to discuss this.

Pamphlets: feedback from legislators is “no more than 3” priorities on a pamphlet; they liked the pamphlets

Agenda items for next Legislative Committee Meeting:

- Federal legislative priorities, especially ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) reauthorization
- Develop assignments and plans for advocacy
- Develop plans to work with neighboring districts

Next meeting: August 5, 2011, at 8:00 a.m.