



Legislative Team Meeting

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

September 21, 2023

Room B1 – Meeting Draft Minutes

Present: Kristy Pingitore (Akron), Chair Erik Polkowski (Akron), Edward Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Dennis Priore (Clarence), Michael Montoro (Cleveland Hill), Paul Blowers (East Aurora), Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), James Voto (Frontier), Davis Podkulski (Frontier), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Jim Michalek (Iroquois), Karen Whitlaw (Ken Ton), Kimberly Bukaty (Lackawanna), Chair Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore), Michael Franey (Lake Shore), Jennifer Pilarski (Maryvale), Jennifer Pisa (North Collins), Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park), Chair Scott Johnson (Sweet Home), Kailey McDonald (Sweet Home), Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda), Andrea Wisniewski (Tonawanda), Trek Fulater (West Seneca), Superintendent Rep: Dr. Brian Graham (Grand Island).

Excused: Paul Roll, Jr. (Alden), Lynn Errington (Excused), Todd Bush (Depew), Sherry Steffans (Grand Island), Vincent Vanderlip (West Seneca), Mark Manna (Williamsville), Stuart Bulan (Williamsville)

Absent: Lawrence Scott (Buffalo), Jennifer Horschel (Eden), Renee Wilson (Erie 1 BOCES), Max Graham (President-Gowanda), David Yoviene (Hamburg), Michael Sage (Lancaster), Jessica Schuster (Springville Griffith).

Call to Order – Chair Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge to Flag – Chair Kathleen Chiavetta lead the attendees in the Pledge to the Flag

Quick Introduction of Who’s Who of who’s here

Legislative Team Description Purpose – Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Linda Hoffman, Second by Jim Michalek, MCU

Approval of Meeting Minutes- April Meeting Minutes were emailed to the team on September 14. **Motion by Dennis Prior, Second by Jim Michalek, MCU**

Review of Legislative/Advocacy Activities Since last Meeting:

Legislative Wrap-up Dinner: **Guest Speakers AM Conrad and Sen. Gallivan – Jane provided a report on the Legislative Wrap-Up Dinner. She indicated that this was the first time we had the dinner and it was well received. We received feedback from Legislators on how we can be better advocates. Both Legislators mentioned that they like the ECASB post cards that we utilize as the can quickly ascertain where we stand on issues.**

Summer committee Report – **About 5-7 people met this summer to begin to prepare the survey materials and discuss Legislative Priorities.**

Old Business:

- **Post Cards – Jane explained the purpose of the post cards. Anyone that needs any postcards should contact ECASB.**
- **Advocacy Shirts- We have Orange T-Shirts with the saying “Remain Calm – Just Advocate” along with our logo. Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), told the group that she was attending a local fair and ran into a legislator as she was wearing her shirt. The chance meeting opened up**

conversation between them. If anyone needs a shirt – Please notify our office – we will send it out via interschool mail.

- **Call to Action (Kathleen)** – Kathleen mentioned that we have been having conversations with Assemblyman William Conrad for over a year. Kathleen said that Bill Conrad had recently written an editorial in the Buffalo News. Kathleen encouraged any other Boards to write letters to the editor to further explain the impact of CVA settlements on current students.

New Business

- (a) **New BillTrack50 – Set up for the new school year.** Jane briefly explained how Bill Track 50 works. She indicated how it can best be used at the Board of Education meetings and shared with other school board meetings. Jane answered questions and offered to meet with individuals to set up their accounts and trouble shoot issues they were having.

Training available upon request

- (b) **2023-2024 QRT – Jane read the list of members that served on the QRT. The QRT is the quick response team which has representatives from about 10 different districts that cover a wide range of district in Erie County including large districts, small districts, rural districts, small city school district. QRT Members include:**

- a. **David Lowrey (Erie 2 CC BOCES)**
- b. **Jane Sullivan (Iroquois)**
- c. **Scott Johnson (Sweet Home)**
- d. **Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore)**
- e. **Erik Polkowski (Akron)**
- f. **Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park)**
- g. **Ed Shaefer (Cheektowaga)**
- h. **Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda)**
- i. **Michael Montoro (Cleveland Hill)**
- j. **Kristy Pingatore (Akron)**

- (c) **Superintendent Representative Comments – Dr. Brian Graham spoke about several issues:**

- a. **Shortage of Bus Drivers**
- b. **Electric School Bus Issues**
- c. **Civil Service issues**
- d. **Drugs, Overdose issues and Mental Health**

- (d) **Review of Survey to set 2023-2024 priorities**

Will be given out via Survey Monkey. Discuss with your Boards and Respond. Jane reviewed the survey that will be sent out via Survey Monkey. She is asking Legislative Reps/Alternates to discuss with their Board where they stand on each of the issues. Once the Legislative Rep/Alternate has surveyed their Board, they should complete the Survey Monkey document. The responses should be that of the Board and not individual Board Members.

- (e) **Co-Chair Comments**

- a. **Scott – Reminded all reps that their voting delegate for the NYSSBA Business meeting should register.**
- b. **Kathleen – Recommended that when meeting with legislators, know where the legislators stand on issues, what action they may have taken on the issue, and to even know a little bit about the legislator.**
- c. **Erik – Urged all those in attendance to reach out and talk to Reps. The Reps cannot help you if you don't reach out to them and educate them. He also pointed out that we are 30 different districts who might have 30 different viewpoints on any one issue. Erik mentioned that legislation is often written for specific people and can be targeted.**

(f) questions and comments

Member Roundtable Reports – Scott canceled the round table so that we would be out by the designated end time of 8:30 p.m.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Dennis Priore, Second by Mary Jo Szucs, MCU

Notice of Upcoming Events Reminder:

ECASB

Rick Timbs Dinner on Oct.12, doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m.: RSVP by Oct. 5

Next Legislative Team Meeting, Oct. 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., A1

Kick Off to Convention Social, Oct. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Resurgence Brewing Company

Dave Little Dinner on Nov. 2 at Creekside

Legislative Dinner with our Legislators on Nov. 16 at The Columns

NYSSBA

Convention in Buffalo! Thurs., Oct. 26-Sat., Oct. 28.