



## Legislative Team Meeting

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

October 19, 2023

Room A1 (Room B1)

2023-2024 Chairs: Scott Johnson, Kathleen Chiavetta, & Erik Polkowski

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kristy Pingitore (Akron), Erik Polkowski (Akron), Lynn Errington (Amherst), Gary Sieczkarek (Cheektowaga-Sloan), Dennis Priore (Clarence), Michael Montoro (Cleveland Hill), Todd Bush (Depew), Paul Blowers (East Aurora), Kathleen Chiavetta (Erie 2 CC BOCES), James Voto (Frontier), Sherry Steffans (Grand Island), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Jim Michalek (Iroquois), Karen Whitelaw (Ken Ton), Michael Franey (Lake Shore), Michael Sage (Lancaster), Jennifer Pisa (North Collins), Kristin Schmutzer (Tonawanda), Vincent Vanderlip (West Seneca).

**Excused:** Paul Roll Jr. (Alden), Michael Bennett (Alden), Cindi McEachon (Buffalo) Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES/Area 1 Director), Kim Bukaty (Lackawanna), Jennifer Pilarski (Maryvale), Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park), Edward Draves (Orchard Park), Joshua Feldmann (Sweet Home), Scott Johnson (Sweet Home), Kailey Bailey (Sweet Home), Andrea Wisniewski (Tonawanda). Also: Superintendent Reps Mike Cornell (Hamburg) and Dr. Brian Graham (Grand Island)

**Absent:** Edward Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Jennifer Horschel (Eden), Renee Wilson (Erie 1 BOCES), (Gowanda), David Yoviene (Hamburg), Jessica Schuster (Springville Griffith), Mark Manna (Williamsville).

**Call to Order – Chair Kathleen Chiavetta called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.**

**Pledge to Flag**

**Approval of Agenda – Motion to Approve Mike Sage (Lancaster), second James Michalek (Iroquois), MCU**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes- September Meeting Minutes were emailed to the team in September Motion to approve by Mike Franey (Lake Shore), second by Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton), MCU**

**Review of Legislative/Advocacy Activities Since Last Meeting:**

**Old Business:**

- (a) Post Cards and T-shirts – **Dave reminded everyone that if they needed post cards or T-Shirts for the upcoming Legislative session, we had plenty available.**

**New Business**

- (a) Survey Results and discussion of Priorities – **Jane reviewed the results of the survey and reported on the percentage of those in favor and opposed on the various statements on the survey that was sent out. Upon review, of the survey results, discussion took place on what 3-5 issues we are going to address at the annual dinner. It was decided that several areas can be grouped together. Jane also discussed the format of the meeting. The chairs will make opening remarks. The individual platforms will be presented by members of the legislative team The main areas include:**
  - a. **Zero Emission Busses - presented by Jim Michalek (Iroquois)**
  - b. **Tier 6/Teacher & Staff Shortages and Retention, Civil Service – Mike Montoro (Cleveland Hill)**

- c. **Found Aid and Funding – Kristy Pingatore (Akron)**
- d. **Mental Health, School Safety, Community Organizations, and Family Support Centers – Sherry Steffan (Grand Island)**
- (b) **Legislative Dinner**
  - o **Presentation – Jane will work with presenters to schedule a virtual meeting to review the talking points and slides. Jane also asked for individuals to serve as greeters and greet the elected officials that are planning on attending. Jane reviewed the list of legislators that she has heard from. If they are not attending, they are sending their top aide. Jane still has a few additional individuals that she needs to follow up with.**
    - **Presenters (and proofreaders)**
    - **Presenter practice date**
    - **Greeters**
  - o **Legislator Packets and Commitments**
  - o **Call for Strong showing of membership – Jane asked for at least one people from each district to attend if not more. Jane urged districts to also send their PTO/PTA presidents as well to show solidarity with all parties that are in education.**
- (c) **Winter (Dec. & Jan.) Legislator Meetings- Jane conducted a pulse poll to see who would be interested in meeting with their legislators during December and early January. We were told by several legislators that we need to approach them before they get the Governors budget in their hands. It was also suggested that districts can invite their legislator into their district for a meeting or to showcase programs. Districts can work with other districts to have a group meeting. It is very important to collaborate with other districts and keep them in the loop on what advocacy is taking place.**
  - o **Which Districts**
  - o **Preferences**
- (d) **Bill Watch**
  - o **Bills watching – Jane reviewed the bills she is currently tracking.**
  - o **Call for action**
- (e) **Superintendent Representative Comments- No Superintendents were present.**
- (f) **Chair Comments**
  - o **Scott – was excused from meeting**
  - o **Kathleen – Urged multiple people from districts to attend. We have to have a good showing and be taken seriously by our legislators.**
  - o **Erik – Erik mentioned that the NYSSBA Business Meeting was very interesting. He noted that you can see how issues are looked at differently in different areas of the state.**
- (g) **questions and comments**

#### **Member Roundtable Reports**

- **Iroquois – pass**
- **Tonawanda – Opened their new elementary school.**
- **Clarence – pass**
- **Holland – Pass**
- **Cleve Hill – Pass**
- **North Collins – pass**
- **East Aurora – pass**
- **Frontier – pass**
- **Amherst – pass**
- **Cheektowaga-Sloan – pass**

- **Lancaster – pass**
- **Ken Ton – pass**
- **Akron – pass**
- **Depew – pass**
- **Lake Shore – Pass**
- **Grand Island – District is hosting a program on AI on Thursday evening**
- **West Seneca – Pass**
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**Adjournment - Motion to adjourn made by Dennis Prior, second by James Michalek. MCU**

**#Notice of Upcoming Events Reminder:**

ECASB

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

Fall Speed-Boarding 6:30-8:30 p.m., B-2a & B-2b

Next Legislative Team Meeting, Jan. 18, 2024, 6:30-8:30 p.m., B1

NYSSBA

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