

APPROVED MINUTES

7:30 – 8:30 PM --Thursday, November 18

Virtual Zoom Legislative Team meeting after Bill Track 50 training

Attendance: Mike Sage, Scott Johnson, Dennis Priore, Kimberly Bukaty, Teresa Leatherbarrow, Lesley Battaglia, Davis Podkulski, Edward Schaefer, Erik Polkowski, Jason Baier (Maryvale), Dr. Ashli Dreher, Jane Sullivan, Wesley Schlossin, Alicia O'Donnell, David Yoviene, Jennifer Morrow, Kristin Schmutzler, Mark Smith, Kate Urkewich, Kathleen Chiavetta, Justin Young

7:30 Call to Order by Legislative Committee Chair Scott Johnson, Sweet Home:

Called to Order at: 7:30

7:30 PM - Pledge to Flag

Approval of Agenda Motion: Dennis Priore Second: Lesley Battaglia

Review/Approval - Meeting Minutes from PREVIOUS MEETING

- **Motion: Dennis Priore**
- **Second: Erik Polkowski**

Updates:

- Legislative Breakfast- a lot of people appreciated and liked the event - Very successful. First time legislators had feedback for us and what they appreciate from board members. Happy with turnout, especially with legislators.
 - Legislators really communicated how we can advocate better
 - Legislative Breakfast Notes are being sent out in the next few days by Dave
 - Maybe go in next year with certain issues and solutions prepared in advance so that we can bring these specific issues to legislators. To improve our advocacy efforts, have issue and ask ready.
 - In order to increase advocacy efforts within the districts to include families and constituents, all District Advocacy Pages are currently listed on ECASB's website. (<https://www.ecasb.org/copy-of-advocacy-central-1>)
We will be creating business cards/post cards and posters to hand out and hang at Board Meetings so that district members can access this information and more through a QR Code.
- David Little- "first time bringing good news"! First time they passed a bill to fully fund the foundation aid formula. Thank your legislators for this and encourage them to follow up with the last 2 steps as well.
 - Information about this is in Advocacy Alliance Newsletter
- Legislative Handbook- handed out at breakfast, but we are continuing to update (especially reflecting new election changes). Come January, we will send out an official, updated version for 2022.
 - Can be found here: <https://www.ecasb.org/copy-of-ecasb-other>
 - Last few pages can be ripped out to use as Advocacy Notes
- Survey results- some districts still have not responded. Jane will be contacting those who have not responded and will tabulate those that have been submitted. So far, there are not too many surprises with results. The final results should be done by next Legislative Meeting.

Upcoming Events:

- January 20, next Legislative Team Meeting
- Local Advocacy Week
 - By that point legislators will be in the capital, so make sure to contact them before!
- February- Rick Timbs Dessert Forum
- NYSSBA Capitol Conference
 - Feb. 2- virtual
 - Meetings with legislators the following Wednesday
- March 17 & April 21- next Legislative Team meetings

Legislative/Advocacy Activities:

- Erik Polkowski- Have been in contact with Mike Norris and is scheduling meeting with Ed Rath. They plan to reach out again to Chris Green because he is an Erie County Legislator, advocating for Test and Stay.
- Teresa Leatherbarrow- Her district has a new Superintendent so she has pushed him on advocacy. He is very eager, so he has set up coffee dates with Assemblywoman McMahon, Senator Rath, and took time for Legislative Breakfast.
- Kristin Schmutzler- Her district's superintendent attended breakfast and chatted with Assemblyman Conrad. Their Board just passed Test and Stay.
- Dennis Priore- His district's new superintendent spoke with Senator Rath and has been very active. He asked if Rath would be interested in attending meetings with members of the district, and he seemed interested in this- more to come.
- Justin Young- Depew is in search of superintendent that will advocate. He notes that Monica Wallace has been very receptive to their school in the past and has brought a lot of money to local districts; has a good relationship with her.
- Mark Smith- Dave Lowrey came to board meeting tonight in Amherst. CVA issues addressed- Buffalo News ran a story stating that lots of districts are facing the same problem Amherst is facing right now. They are suggesting making a sub-committee within ECASB to work on this and to take to Albany. *Let Dave or Mark know if you are grappling with this issue in your district and are interested in joining this sub-committee*
- David Yoviene- Mike Cornell met with Gale Bernstein, who expressed desire to have a pilot district to test the Test and Stay program out. Word is that she explicitly doesn't like Test and Stay because she believes that having to quarantine will encourage those to get vaccines, so he is not sure how successful their efforts will be. There has been a consistent rumor of closing schools between Thanksgiving and Christmas- Mike Cornell states that this is nonsense.
- Ashli Dreher- Grand Island tried Test and Stay. They wrote a resolution; District Clerk can send out if anyone would like a copy. They are hoping that other districts will follow.
- Davis Podkulski- They have an advocacy committee within their district, to which Jane and Dave and contributed a lot of helpful information towards.
- Kathleen Chiavetta- "Thank you to everyone who contributed to the breakfast and who attended!"
- Jane Sullivan- Quick response team is in the works; goal is to have board members from a variety of districts come together to answer questions from legislators. This team will respond quickly to legislators about how we feel about certain issues, so that they know how their local school districts feel.
 - Scott Johnson- email and text your board members asap so that we can see who wants to be involved before next meeting.
 - Erik Polkowski, Ed Schaefer, Justin Young, Kathleen Chiavetta, Scott Johnson and Kristin Schmutzler would like to be on Quick Response Team. Others should email Jane and Dave about joining ASAP.

Adjournment @ 8:19 pm

Motion: Dennis Priore
Second: Erik Polkowski