



## Legislative Team Meeting

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.,

January 19, 2023

Room B1

### APPROVED MINUTES

**Present:** Gary Sieczkarek (Cheek-Sloan), Wesley Schlossin (Cheek-Sloan), Dennis Priore (Clarence), Michael Montoro (Cleveland Hill), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Scott Johnson (Sweet Home), Todd Bush (Depew), Kathleen Chiavetta (Erie 2 BOCES), Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 BOCES / NYSSBA Area 1 Director), Davis Podkulski, (Frontier), David Yoviene (Hamburg), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Jim Michalek (Iroquois), Jennifer Morrow (Ken-Ton), Kimberly Bukaty (Lackawanna), Mike Sage (Lancaster), Jennifer Pilarski (Maryvale), Jen Pisa (North Collins), Ryan Anderson (OP), Scott Johnson (Sweet Home), Kailey McDonald (Sweet Home), Jan Dalbo (West Seneca), Swaroop Singh (Williamsville), David Lowrey (Executive Director), Jane Sullivan (Program Services), Susan Beier (Office Assistant).

**Excused:** Erik Polkowski (Akron), Paul Blowers (East Aurora), John Waterman (Gowanda), Sherry Steffans (Grand Island), Lesley Battaglia (Ken Ton), Michelle DeCarlo (North Collins), Jeff Feldmann (Sweet Home), Andrea Wisniewski (Tonawanda), Molly Dana (West Seneca).

**Absent:** Michael Bennett (Alden), Mark Smith (Amherst), Lawrence Scott (Buffalo), Edward Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Jennifer Horschel (Eden), Jessica Schuster (Springville Griffith)

**Call to Order at 6:31 p.m.**

**Pledge to Flag**

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Janice Dalbo, Second by Dennis Priore, MCU

**Approval of Meeting Minutes-** November Meeting Minutes previously sent out. Motion by Michael Montoro, Second by Jim Michalek, MCU

**Review of Legislative/Advocacy Activities**

**Old Business**

- (a) **Legislative Breakfast and Advocacy training updates-**Jane reviewed the agenda and schedule for the breakfast. Kathleen spoke regarding a bill Senator Gallivan is not supporting. She asked who was attending Legislative Breakfast and reviewed general rules and guidelines. At end of Breakfast those in attendance will be able to submit question cards to ECASB if issues are not specifically addressed by either presenters or legislators attending the breakfast.
- (b) **Handbook Updates:** Need to wait for some new information. Should be ready soon.
- (c) **Interactive Map is up and running on the ECASB Website.** Scott Johnson added that re-districting went through. Fairly significant change in a few districts. Re-arranging districts do not necessarily follow the town boundaries. Jane indicated that she had been working with an outfit that was working to create school district maps that would overlap where election districts are.

**New Business**

- (a) **Capital Conference**-Jane reviewed who was attending. There are currently 15 people headed to Albany on Feb. 15. Meetings are currently set up with a few senators. Jane is continuing to schedule meetings with Assembly members. We will only be visiting those legislators who are represented by members attending from ECASB.
  - a. **Attendees**-Jane will be sending agenda for Albany for those attending.
  - b. **Meetings Scheduled** -Jane listed what meetings were already been scheduled.
  - c. **Meetings requested-Waiting on Response**-Jane listed what legislators she was still waiting to hear from.
- (b) **Award Nominations** – Jane mentioned that ECASB award nominations were now open and board members should consider nominating fellow board members.
- (c) **Dave Little Dinner is not being rescheduled this year.** We are though having a Follow Up Legislative Dinner scheduled for May of this year.
- (d) **Legislative Dinner 2023- Confirmation from Gallivan for limited attendance.** Scheduled for May 11. Dave and Jane are in the process of establishing the date of the next legislative breakfast for November 2023....Nov. 11 breakfast or Nov. 16 dinner. Nov. 11 may have many conflicts due to Veteran’s Day. We could move to November 18<sup>th</sup>, however that could be affected by Thanksgiving. If we move back to November 4<sup>th</sup>, that follows the NYSSBA Annual Convention. There would be the possibility of having a dinner instead of a breakfast on November 16<sup>th</sup>. If we move back into October, there would not be enough time to develop our plan. Kathleen said to forget about dates and focus on breakfast or dinner. Jennifer Morrow stated she likes the idea of a breakfast because it tends to be more informal. Linda Hoffman suggested we poll legislators to see what their thoughts are so that we can have a better turn out of elected officials. One suggestion was to have a dinner in fall and breakfast in spring.
- (e) **The Legislative Session began Jan. 4.** New Bills on BillTrack50 Bill Sheet -within 24 hours there were 1000 bills. Many education and school bills. Check your BillTrack 50 account.
- (f) **Superintendent Representative Comments**-Superintendent excused for today’s meeting.
- (g) **Co-Chair Comments**-Scott asked the audience if there was a topic update from anyone in the audience. Mary Jo from Holland about the CVA. Their district has about \$26 million in claims on a \$21 million budget. The district has reviewed their insurance files and have not been able to find evidence of coverage from insurance carriers. They were able to locate a canceled check back from the 70’s. The insurance carrier is looking to cover about \$250,000 hardly enough to meet the cost of the lawsuits. Ken-Ton has been working with the issue for several years. Some information is public and some is not public information. Dave suggested Scott and Kathleen get the information that the district is or can share with legislators and then have as part of the program presented at the Legislative Breakfast. Linda Hoffman asked how many districts are facing this issue. Jane stated this caused tension at last breakfast. Jennifer Morrow spoke about letters sent to legislators and issues affecting district. Jane pointed out that this is NOT a Western New York issue, but a state-wide issue. Kathleen spoke about Capital Conference.
- (h) **Questions and Comments**-Kathleen requested feedback/suggestion on appropriate way to thank those legislators who help to pass legislation for “you”. Kathleen asked “What is the most appropriate way to say thank you. Linda Hoffman suggested inviting them to a meeting and thank them. In-person meeting in the district where they can talk about the work that the legislator took on to pass a bill. Jane said use newspaper reporters to help get the word out about the work of the legislators on behalf of the district as it gets into the Bee. This can occur before a board meeting, at an informal board appreciate meeting.

**Adjournment-Motion to adjourn by Dennis Priore, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Michalek meeting adjourned at 8:10pm**

**Notice of Event Reminders:**

**ECASB**

**Award Nominations Open Now**

**Legislative Team Meetings- March 16, 2023; April 20, 2023**

**Local Advocacy Week- Feb 1-4, 2023**

**Legislative Dinner- May 11, 2023**

**NYSSBA**

**Capital Conference**

**Virtual Meeting-Feb.10, 2023**

**In-Person-Feb. 15, 2023**

**Round Table Discussion:**

**Sweet Home CSD – District has received Bullet Aid from Assemblywoman McMahon. The district is using the money for school security and in working with the town on the Community Center.**

**Cheektowaga – Sloan UFSD – Buffalo Building Trades has energy efficiency grants when businesses work with programs where they involve apprentices.**

**Clarence CSD – Attended the ‘state of the town address’**

**Frontier CSD – The Frontier Advocacy Group will be taking part in a panel discussion at the Advocacy Training. The Frontier Advocacy Group has been active for a little over a year.**

**Orchard Park CSD – There have been issues in the district that have been brought to the boards attention about textbooks and library books in the district. There is now a group of students that are fighting back that have formed a group pro active on education issues.**

**Iroquois CSD – Currently the district is in the middle of discussing and researching the use of the district mascot and the names that are used within the district. Unfortunately, there is not a great deal of guidance from the state and there are often more questions than answers.**

**Lake Shore CSD – As many people know, the district has the first electric bus in the area. The Superintendent is now providing information to 2-3 dozen districts about the things the district has learned along the way as they have put the electric bus into service.**