

**School District U-46**  
Elgin, Illinois

January 24, 2022

The Legislation Committee of the Board of Education met at 4:30 p.m. in Room 140 of the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois, to have a legislative discussion with Jennifer Blackman, Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Governmental Relations for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Board members in attendance were Sue Kerr, Melissa Owens, John Devereux, Dawn Martin, and Veronica Noland. Also in attendance were Tony Sanders, Superintendent, Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer, Dr. Kerry Foderaro, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, and Dr. Teresa Lance, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Innovation.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Owens called the meeting to order and everyone present stated their name and title.

2. Presentation and Legislative Discussion with Representative Jennifer Blackman from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Ms. Blackman began the presentation by stating the General Assembly passed three bills in the first week of the Spring Legislative Session, which were the clean-up bill for the vote-by-mail provision of the election code, the trailer bill to the recent major criminal justice reform, and a new judicial redistricting mapping. Ms. Blackman stated while legislative sessions during the COVID-19 pandemic have caused some challenges; the General Assembly has made a habit of passing impactful legislation at a rapid pace.

Dr. Josh Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Karla Jimenez, Director of School and Community Relations, joined the meeting at 4:32 p.m.

Ms. Blackman stated the General Assembly has addressed two bills that are regarding the staffing crisis in Illinois. Ms. Blackman stated those two bills are House Bill (HB)4139, which requires the student assistance commission to administer a teacher/student loan reimbursement program for up to eight semesters of tuition and the second bill HB4246 which lowers the lapse educator license renewal fee from \$500.00 to \$50.00 to remove the financial burden for those seeking re-licensure. Ms. Blackman stated there is a more controversial bill (HB4241), which eliminates the use of assessments for teachers seeking licensure bill that failed in committee. Ms. Blackman stated there has been a wide debate in assessment for several years with some making the case that it is a major factor into the teacher shortage and others arguing that it is a negligible impact on teacher availability and is a useful tool for determining teacher preparation.

Ericka Brown joined the meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Ms. Blackman went on to discuss the bills IASB is currently monitoring such as Senate Bill (SB)569, which requires school districts to provide students enrolled in grades 10-12 an opportunity to take an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test. The Armed

Services Vocational Aptitude Battery Test is the test to get into any type of military force or service. Ms. Blackman stated IASB is also currently monitoring SB2945, which establishes the statewide trust fund and state treasury for the purposes of maintaining a statewide suicide prevention mental health crisis system. Moving forward, HB209 provides food service establishments, including schools, not permit its employees to use latex gloves in the preparation of any food. In addition, IASB is watching and assisting the advocacy efforts for HB2859, which provides that school districts seeking to employ a substitute teacher may use information in the educators licensure information system rather than initiating its own criminal history records check. Ms. Blackman stated most of the bills that have had movement are in response to the teacher shortage.

Board Member Kate Thommes joined the meeting at 4:38 p.m.

Ms. Blackman stated IASB is also monitoring HB4203, which requires a school district to develop and implement a plan to provide additional instructional services or special accommodations to students who suffer from trauma-related incidences to experiencing the death of a family member by suicide or homicide.

Ms. Blackman advised IASB is finalizing digestive bills for new school law for the 2022-2023 school year and would be available in February.

In response to Ms. Owens, Mr. Sanders stated Speaker Welch came to the district and spoke regarding the expectation there would be full funding for schools this school year based on the funds the stated received and the \$350 million increase in education funding.

Ms. Blackman stated many school districts have not taken advantage of the federal funding that is available and encourages districts to look into the funding.

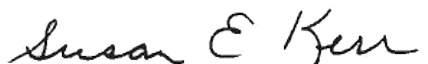
3. Public Participation

There were no public comments.

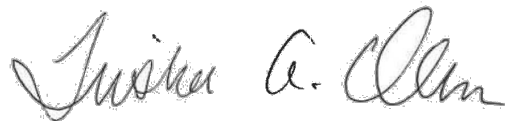
4. Adjournment

Ms. Owens adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.



President



Secretary