

KPBSD School Board
Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Steve Atwater, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Dave Jones, Assistant Superintendent
Mrs. Liz Downing, Committee Chair
Mr. Tim Navarre, Committee Member
Mr. Bill Holt, School Board Member
Mrs. Penny Vadla, School Board Member
Ms. Pegge Erkeneff, Communication Specialist
Mrs. Nancy Hamburg, Admin Secretary, Planning & Operations

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting convened at 9:03 a.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: January 27, 2014 Legislative Committee Meeting Agenda was approved

MINUTES APPROVAL: Approval of the January 13, 2014, minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

- SB139 – Education Omnibus Bill (or HB278) is the Governor’s omnibus bill that encompasses several education initiatives including:
 - BSA increases in each of the next three years resulting in an FY15 BSA of \$85.00 per student increase for 2014-15, \$58.00 FY 16 and \$58.00 for FY 17. Committee feels this is positive movement in that it starts the discussion on BSA. However, it does not solve the school districts’ financial shortfalls. Committee will endeavor to increase this amount stated by the governor.
- Repeal of the HSGQE with a requirement that a student must take a college and career readiness or receive a waiver from the governing body, college and career readiness assessments include the SAT, ACT and WorkKeys.
 - The committee supports the concept, however, who is responsible to pay? This could become a burden on the school district. One possible amendment idea; have it effective 1 – 2 years later as well as having standardization.
- Opportunity for a charter school applicant to appeal a denial of a charter school applicant at the district level to the EED Commissioner...
 - Concerns: Putting Commissioner in political situation. Since the process is not broken, why change it. It will cause us to be in a reactive mode. Could be issue to other districts taking away from the School Board’s discretion.
- The local school board annual budget for an approved charter school shall be not less than the amount generated by the students enrolled in the charter school, less administrative costs retained by the district. The funds include funds generated by special needs, secondary school vocational and technical instruction, and pupil transportation as well as any state aid for the construction or major maintenance for the charter school facility.

- Our school district has not reached the maximum number of allowable charter schools. Anchorage has less charter schools but this is offset by alternative schools. The Governor might be interested in options that are not necessarily charter schools. Need to stress to legislature that we do provide many variable options. Charter schools get their state funding first before local contribution money.
- At next meeting discuss HR 9 – Delay implementation of Ed Standards.
 - The hope is that this doesn't gain traction.
- SB 107 – Establish K – 3 Reading program – Districtwide curriculum used for reading.
 - However, the variance of school size does not speak to having all the same curriculum.
 - A subtle change in the SB 107 is that a parent would have the ultimate say if student is retained. Research indicates that retention is not a positive means of solving the student's issues. It's better to focus more on intervention. Another negative is that parents could potentially manipulate the system allowing their student to excel in a sport.
- HB 245 School funding requiring local contribution.
 - This could harm us in the long run.
- Pegge Erkeneff appraised us of the Borough Assembly's 4 page, easy to read, brochure that they will be taking to Washington D.C. as a handout to the legislators. The committee was interested in duplicating this idea. The assembly will travel to D.C. end of February/first of March.
- Update on use of Key Communicators and finalizing if and when they are willing to testify.
 - Need to establish who will be designated contact and answer person via the web page Pegge is creating. They must be able to address any potential complex questions. It would be helpful in preparing the communicators by breaking down our primary bills and have talking points/key points etc. written down for them. Ultimately, make sure they are prepared and at least understand the issue.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.