

# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 196

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

*Educating our students to reach their full potential*

## Legislative Advisory Council Meeting

MINUTES

6–7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2016

District Office

**Present:** Members Derek Appleyard, Nicole Arness, Sarah Carlson, Cindy Ford, Carita Green, Gary Krueger, Chas McCready, Jason Nord and Retno Saridewi-Wong; ex-officio School Board member Jackie Magnuson; staff members Kim Craven and Tony Taschner, and incoming member Mark Engdahl

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Co-chair Krueger opened the meeting and asked each person to introduce themselves around the table.

### II. 2016 Session Review by Visiting Legislators

All 14 legislators who represent parts of the district were invited to the meeting to share their thoughts about the 2016 session. Seven of the 14 legislators were in attendance.

Rep. Anna Wills (R-57B) listed several education programs that received some additional funding this session, including \$25 million for school readiness grants. For policy changes, she mentioned a bill to align state physical education standards with national standards, a new civics exam in 9<sup>th</sup> grade and establishment of a working group on student discipline issues.

Rep. Laurie Halverson (DFL-51B) talked about need for additional mental health and counseling services for students; a bill she authored and hopes to bring back next session to help create a pathway to meaningful work for students with disabilities; approval of additional school readiness funding, and the need to improve the process of making decisions at the end of session.

Sen. Greg Clausen (DFL-57) talked about legislation to establish a teacher licensure task force to address issues related to the shortage of teachers in the state; creation of the working group on student discipline and his opposition to the Higher Learning Commission pending requirement for teachers to have a master's degree in the subject they are teaching in order to continue to teach college-credit courses in high school.

Rep. Roz Peterson (R-56B) talked about college readiness indicators and the need to better align high school graduation with the requirements of college coursework; a special education paperwork reduction bill; the need for more information on homeless and highly mobile students; a teacher-empowered schools grant and additional funding flexibility that was approved for some equity grants.

Sen. Jim Carlson (DFL-51) expressed his frustration with a session that ended without a transportation or bonding bill and a tax bill that is awaiting veto by the governor. He said he was disappointed by the last-minute decision-making anticipates there will be a special session. He said he did author a bill for the district that excludes student information systems from purchases

exceeding \$100,000 that need to be formally bid; it was approved as part of the supplemental budget bill.

Rep. Sandra Masin (DFL-51A) identified teacher licensure changes and the need for more school counselors as issues that need to be looked at.

Rep. Jon Koznick (R-58A) said he appreciated efforts of LAC members to visit him in St. Paul the last two years. He commented on the quality of the schools in District 196 and Lakeville, and said he wanted to hear what LAC members are thinking.

The legislators answered several questions before the conversation ended at 7:30 p.m.

### **III. Session Review Report at June 13 School Board Meeting**

Communications Director Taschner said that he and Co-Chair Krueger will present a review of the 2016 session as a report at the June 13 School Board meeting. He said the report will be short and will highlight the amendment to bid law that was approved as part of the supplemental budget bill. The district pursued the change to Minnesota Statute 123.52B to exclude student information systems from the requirement to obtain bids on purchases exceeding \$100,000. The change will allow the district to use a request for proposal process to select a student information system based on user criteria, not just the low bidder.

### **IV. Membership Update**

Six applications were received for the four open citizen positions during the two-month application period that ended May 13. Fifteen-minute interviews of five of the six applicants were conducted May 24 by a three-person team of District Office staff. The following four applicants are recommended for membership: Craig Angrimson of Apple Valley, Mark Engdahl of Rosemount, Catherine Hunter of Burnsville and Chas McCready of Apple Valley. The School Board will act on the recommendation June 13 and the two-year terms begin July 1.

### **V. 2016-17 LAC Meeting Dates**

Taschner shared a proposed 2016-17 schedule that includes six regular meetings on the following Wednesdays: October 19, November 16, January 18, March 15, April 19 and May 31. He also set a tentative date of Tuesday, February 7 for the district's annual day at the Capitol. It was noted that October 19 is the Wednesday preceding MEA break. Taschner said he would talk with Director of Finance and Operations Jeff Solomon about having a joint meeting to begin the year, as was done this year, to discuss potential priorities for the session. Taschner said this will likely change the date of the first meeting but that the other dates will stay the same. A final schedule will be shared via email.

### **VI. Candidates for Minnesota Senate and House Seats Serving District 196 Communities**

Taschner shared a document listing the names of the legislative candidates for the 14 Senate and House districts that represent District 196 in St. Paul. He said Superintendent Berenz will be extending an invitation to all of these candidates to meet individually with her this summer.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING  
TBD**