

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

January 25, 2021

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 Deanna Sullivan, Director of Governmental Relations for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Board members in attendance were John Devereux, Sue Kerr, Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, and Eva Porter. Also in attendance were Tony Sanders, Superintendent, Dr. Jeff King, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, and Dr. Ushma Shah, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Instruction and Equity.

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 Deanna Sullivan from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Ms. Sullivan began the presentation with discussing (House Bill) HB 2170 the legislation that was the omnibus school education plan. Ms. Sullivan stated IASB was able to modify or remove aspects of HB 2170 such as further restrictions on the use of isolated time outs and restraints. Ms. Sullivan stated the middle ground so to speak is being sought to ensure that students are protected while ensuring schools and school staff are protected while maintaining a semblance of order in a school. Ms. Sullivan stated the elimination or further restrictions on School Resource Officers (SROs) is mentioned as many school districts in Illinois use SROs in a positive way but that there has also been many challenges with that. Ms. Sullivan stated the topic of SROs was removed from the legislation. One of the things that is driving a lot of policy right now is the P20 Council. The P20 Council was created in Illinois as a think tank to look at educational issues in Illinois from PK through college in order to have some continuity. Ms. Sullivan stated many of the provisions IASB saw manifest in this legislation were things that were being looked at by the P20 Council and were then put into legislation. Some of the focus points the P20 Council is looking at right now as areas of interest or study are action items such as learning time, quality of instruction, digital learning, individual wellbeing, and support during transitions. Ms. Sullivan suggested everyone look at that the work of the P20 Council because many of the items they were working on did show up as a part of HB 2170. Ms. Sullivan stated when she says think tank, she means all of the people that are invested in education from teachers to superintendents to principals to school board members.

Ms. Sullivan stated she believes the legislative session will likely have substantial items relative to health and wellness with regard to staff and students due to the challenges put forth by the pandemic.

Ms. Sullivan stated there would also be recommendations brought forward from the Professional Review Panel regarding Evidence Based Funding (EBF). Ms. Sullivan stated there were a few items that were initially placed within HB 2170 which were ultimately

removed that had to do with moving money around regarding the Tiers that are in the Evidence Based Funding model. Ms. Sullivan stated IASB would be reporting all of the information out to its school districts.

Ms. Sullivan stated discussions have also been had regarding lengthening the school day and the school year that was also removed from legislation.

In response to Ms. Owens, Ms. Sullivan stated there has been a tremendous focus on those populations that have been harmed by not having the support that should be there. Ms. Sullivan further stated EBF in its form right now with the purpose of having tiers reflects the adequacy targets that need to be reached. Ms. Sullivan stated what lawmakers are concerned with right now is what impact COVID has had and some of the supports that are going to be needed to bring students up from the learning environment they are currently experiencing and have been experiencing for the last year. Ms. Sullivan stated early versions of the bill included additional money for districts that have at least 15% black students.

Mr. Sanders stated when he spoke with legislators he continued to empathize there have not yet been any studies on EBF to see how it is working as a state so the P20 Council continues to meet and review but really have only had 3 years of real increases of EBF that generated more money for the district. Mr. Sanders stated he would like the formula for EBF to stay the same until the state has done the necessary studies to see where the changes need to be made. Ms. Sullivan stated the plan with the EBF model was going to take 8-10 years with full funding (at least \$300 million-\$375 million a year additional revenue).

In response to Ms. Kerr, Ms. Sullivan stated she did foresee items that was excluded in the omnibus bill reappearing in the spring session such as the longer school day or longer school year.

Ms. Sullivan stated regarding the EBF model and funding, the federal government has just announced a new package of relief (\$170 billion) supplemented by state and local relief resources although it is unclear what those will be at this point.

Ms. Sullivan stated there is \$160 billion allocated to help execute a National Vaccination Program, which includes \$50 billion for regular testing protocols for schools and local governments nationwide. In addition, Ms. Sullivan stated \$130 billion is allocated to help schools reopen (although there is a list containing the items where the money can be spent), and \$5 billion for governors to use to support educational programs for students who have been significantly impacted by COVID and that is to be shared from K-12, early childhood, and universities. Ms. Sullivan stated it is not clear what protocols for schools will be at this point.

Ms. Sullivan stated the Illinois State Board of Education came out with the recommendations from state superintendent regarding \$7.58 billion for appropriation for EBF. That is a \$362 million increase over fiscal year 2020-2021. Ms. Sullivan stated that provides \$300 million distribution in Tier funding, \$50 million for property tax relief and

grants, and \$12 million to integrate the district intervention grants to EBF.

Ms. Sullivan stated the state has reported a \$4.1 billion loss in revenue and planned cuts to agencies of about 6%. Ms. Sullivan stated none of the cuts were related to education.

In response to Mr. Sanders, Ms. Sullivan stated the state moving a higher percentage of pension costs onto school districts would depend on what that might look like as the state cannot diminish anyone's pension which is the challenge.


3. Public Participation

There were no public comments.

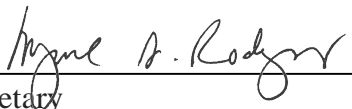
4. Adjournment

Ms. Owens adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 8th day of March, 2020.



President



Secretary