

School District U-46
Elgin, Illinois

September 9, 2019

The Legislation Committee of the Board of Education met at 5:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the Educational Services Center, 355 East Chicago Street, Elgin, Illinois, to have a legislative discussion with Ben Schwarm, Deputy Executive Director for the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). Board members in attendance were: Sue Kerr, John Devereux (arrived at 5:06 p.m.), Veronica Noland, Melissa Owens, and Kate Thommes. Also in attendance were: Tony Sanders, Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Suzanne Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction, Dr. Jeff King, Deputy Superintendent of Operations and Finance, Steve Burger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools Instruction and Equity, Dr. Josh Carpenter, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Mary Fergus, Director of School and Community Relations, Lela Majstorovic, Assistant Superintendent of Secondary School Instruction and Equity, 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.

1. Presentation and Legislative Discussion with Representative Ben Schwarm from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Mr. Schwarm stated there are 850 school boards in the State of Illinois. No board is required to be a member of IASB. All but four districts are members. IASB has been around the 98% membership since Mr. Schwarm has been a part of IASB. The vast majority of IASB staff goes to the main mission which is training of school board members. IASB has staff of four legislative specialists in addition to Mr. Schwarm. The majority of their time is working to monitor and respond to state legislation. IASB also monitors federal legislation in congress.

John Devereux, Board Vice President, and Ann Chan, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, joined the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Mr. Sanders informed Board members who may have not been on the Board when the Board made the decision to end their membership with National School Boards Association (NSBA) but maintain the relationship with IASB and we continue to receive those federal resources through IASB the district was otherwise getting with NSBA.

Mr. Schwarm stated IASB is happy to make legislative presentations at different regional and statewide meetings. Mr. Schwarm stated IASB does five or six legislative panels as well as a strand of school safety panels. That is how IASB gets the information out. It is really two-fold. IASB gets information from the Board regarding what their interests are and what the Board feels needs to be done. IASB then takes that to the general assembly. Mr. Schwarm stated IASB has legislative reports that go out every week during the legislative session and as needed through the rest of the year to keep their members up to

date.

Mr. Schwarm stated the most important thing IASB does is that they are in the capital every day they are in session. Mr. Schwarm stated the grassroots advocacy helps the school districts build a relationship with their local representative and/or state senator. Mr. Schwarm stated local representatives and/or state senator want the input from Board members as they cannot be specialists in every area that is covered in a bill introduced in the capital. Local representatives and state senators rely on Board members' expertise. In response to Mr. Devereux, Mr. Schwarm stated IASB's breakdown is not that specific to know how many students a certain legislator represents but understands various areas cover a number of different municipalities and stated IASB does have the various legislators broken down by the district the legislator is assigned. Mr. Sanders stated there are 11 different legislators that serve within U-46 boundaries.

Mr. Schwarm stated a frequent question they receive at IASB is how they form their legislative positions. Mr. Schwarm stated all IASB positions come from local school board members. Mr. Schwarm stated the process starts with our resolutions and delegate assembly process. Each April, the process is opened up, its members are made aware that the process is open and that the forms are available. At that time, any proposal or idea a school board has they have the ability to submit that proposal or idea to IASB such as supporting or opposing proposals. A meeting is held wherein IASB states the proposals it will be presenting and whether they will be supporting or opposing said proposal. The deadline for the submittal of proposals is the middle of June. Once the proposals are received, IASB staff analyze them. IASB does not make recommendations but will do the history regarding the law and prior legislation regarding the proposal and will submit the rationale back to the submitting district and the resolutions committee. IASB has 21 geographical divisions and each will hold elections and elect a Board member from that area to be on the Resolution Committee. IASB's Board of Directors is made up of 21 school Board members from across the state. The first Friday of August the Resolution Committee meets. IASB invites the districts that have proposed the resolution so that they can present it. The Resolution Committee will ask questions, will deliberate in real time as the submitting district is there and will make the recommendation to adopt or not adopt the resolution. Regardless of the recommendation, the resolution will go to the Delegate Assembly. Every school Board in the state has a delegate. There is a Delegate Assembly meeting every November to go over the resolutions that have been submitted. The Resolutions Committee submits a report which is sent out via regular mail to all of its members. The report will have every proposal, the district that proposed it, their rationale for proposing it, the committee's recommendation and the committee's rationale for their recommendation. These resolutions will then go to the Delegate Assembly regardless of the recommendation. The Delegate Assembly votes majority vote. Each Resolution that is voted on by the majority of the Delegate Assembly is adopted as a position statement.

In response to Ms. Kerr, Mr. Schwarm confirmed once a position statement is settled a representative or senator is still needed to sponsor legislation. In response to Ms. Thommes, Mr. Schwarm stated IASB monitors legislative committees that impact education such as Education Committee, Revenue Committee, Elections Committee, and

so forth.

Mr. Schwarm stated IASB lobbies in the capital as the Statewide School Management Alliance which started in 1992. The Statewide School Management Alliance consists of the Illinois Association of School Boards, Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of School Business Officials, and the Illinois Principals Association. The ability of each of these organizations to influence public policy is enhanced through the cooperative efforts of the Statewide School Management Alliance, which directs all of their effectors at producing legislation that fosters a favorable educational climate in Illinois and promotes effective school board leadership.

In response to Ms. Noland, Mr. Schwarm stated issues that come up through the Delegate Assembly where there is not an agreement between the districts, the IASB will continue to go forward at the request of the school board. In response to Mr. Devereux, Mr. Schwarm stated there is only one delegate assigned to each district regardless of size.

The legislator has 30 days to send the bills to the governor. The governor has 60 days to take action on the bill. Generally by the end of August all is complete. A veto session is set up in late fall to take action on anything that has been vetoed.

Mr. Schwarm stated the budget went well and passed with \$375 million new dollars into the evidence-based funding formula. Mr. Schwarm stated the target was \$350 million dollars. Mr. Sanders stated that although the district received the largest sum of evidence-funding dollars of all large unit districts, the district is still the furthest from adequacy for the large unit districts.

Mr. Schwarm stated in the budget implementation bill there was one important change which was the end-of-career salary boost that used to be 20 percent, had been six percent for years and was dropped to three percent. Mr. Schwarm stated from IASB's perspective three percent was troublesome because three percent is a usual increase and anything above that the respective district would be responsible for the normal cost of the pension for that person. The state has now moved the percentage back to six percent.

Mr. Schwarm stated property tax relief was a big issue this year because taxes were increased in various areas. Obviously, they voted to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to go to a graduated income tax. Over the years, there have been bills that discussed a tax freeze which would be devastating for a lot of school districts which IASB always opposes. At this point, there has been a fund created for property tax relief and a property tax task force has been implemented which has met two times at this point. The property tax task force report should be out sometime in the fall.

Mr. Schwarm stated one of the bills that passed was regarding minimum wage increase for teachers to \$40,000 a year by the 2023-2024 school year. IASB opposed this bill as it is an unfunded mandate as well as the minimum wage increase should be up to the respective district's Board of Education. About half of the school districts in Illinois are below that. Even as it is phased in, the first year has to be \$32,000 and there are three districts that are

below that to the point of the teachers will be getting about a 25 percent increase in the first year.

Mr. Schwarm spoke about a newly enacted law requiring the FASFA form to be completed by high school students. IASB opposed the bill as it was drafted as there are a lot of students who do not need or want to complete the FASFA for various reasons. The bill still passed and is now law.

There was discussion regarding the legalization of cannabis and whether a portion of the proceeds received would be applied to the general education fund. The amount is not yet known. There was also discussion regarding the physical education requirement and why this is the only class where there is a minimum amount of time required in that subject. Mr. Schwarm stated both the cannabis and physical education topics will come back as trailer bills.

3. Public Participation

There were no public comments.

4. Adjournment

Ms. Owens adjourned the meeting.

Approved this 7th day of October, 2019.

/s/ Susan Kerr //

President

/s/ Miguel A. Rodriguez //

Secretary