

Meeting Minutes: Governmental Affairs Committee**Date/Time:** February 14, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.**Location:** District Office Board Room**Start:** 12:00 p.m.**End:** 12:37 p.m.**Committee Members Present:** Robin Nelson, Melissa Burkland, Katie Christensen, Greg Clark, Nyamal Dei**Committee Members Absent:****Board Members Present:** None**Staff Members Present:** Tara Brandner and Jackie Gapp**Recorder:** Amy Patterson

| Agenda Item | Discussion – Conclusion | Recommendations/Actions |
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| Approval of January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes | The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the January 24, 2023 meeting. | Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website. |
| Legislative Update | <p>Chair Robin Nelson updated the Committee on current and upcoming legislation which impacts schools. Committee discussion ensued on various pieces of legislation. A few of the bills to watch:</p> <p><u>HB 1491: Universal School Lunch.</u> It was amended and is now just free lunches; reduced is not mentioned anymore. This came out as Do Pass, and the companion bill 1494 was passed on the House floor--unamended, 89-1.</p> <p><u>HB 1532: Tax Dollars to Non-Public Schools.</u> This voucher bill would allow public funds to flow to private education entities. We are watching closely.</p> <p><u>HB 1337 School Safety.</u> The original bill had to do with school safety and required schools to spend 15% of their state aid payments on safety. It was amended in Committee and received a Do Pass. There is concern that the author intends to push for it in its original form. If the amendments to the bill are removed, it would require 15% of a district's state aid payments go to school safety on an ongoing basis. For example, Bismarck Public Schools would be forced to spend nearly \$28M of their \$186M budget on school safety. FPS supports it in its current form and strongly opposes it in the original form.</p> | |
| Crossover Meeting Planning | <p>The committee discussed the final logistics and plans for next week's Legislative Crossover at the Radisson in Bismarck, February 21-22. Discussion was had on the format and agenda for the events. The committee had discussions about items to discuss with the legislators. Suggested topics were funding, gender identity, high school curriculum, graduation requirements and the CTE bill, vouchers, school improvement related to the TCI and PCI--related to the lowest performing schools, and skewed data for lower income and ESL and the negative impacts.</p> <p>Robin gave helpful information on etiquette and faux pas to be aware of at the Capitol for new members.</p> | The Committee will solidify the agenda with West Fargo on the Friday call. |

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| | <p>Nyamal Dei expressed the desire to be more involved in legislative issues. Discussion was had about the level of involvement in legislative issues and ways for committee members to get more active and involved. It was noted that members are very busy with other Committee work, and this first year is a steep learning curve for the new members. Melissa Burkland offered to help draft testimony. Katie Christensen suggested meeting more often after Crossover to divvy up tasks and carefully track legislation and positions. All members want to be active and helpful.</p> | |
| <p>Next Meeting Date</p> | <p>The committee will meet next on March 7 at 7:30 a.m. in the District Office Board Room.</p> | |
| <p>Next Meeting: March 7, 2023 at 7:30 a.m.</p> | | |