

Meeting Minutes: Governmental Affairs Committee**Date/Time:** March 21, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.**Location:** District Office Executive Conference Room**Start:** 12:00 p.m. **End:** 1:03 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:** Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Tara Brandner, Jackie Gapp**Recorder:** Amy Patterson

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
Approval of March 7 Meeting Minutes	The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting.	Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website.
Review of submitted testimony and positions	The Committee had discussions about the various bills that we have been watching and the testimony that has been given.	
Remaining legislation and next steps	<p>Committee discussion was had on the remaining bills. Committee members were watching and on top of the remaining bills. Katie Christenson reported on the hearing for 2360 and the speakers. Most of the speakers were from out of state. The application of these bills has not been considered. This would be cumbersome and expensive for the District and libraries. 1205 was amended favorably. It wasn't perfect but it was more palatable.</p> <p>Robin participated in the press conference on the school meals bills. Both meals bills were heard today. 1491 started out as the universal lunch bill; it was amended to include private schools. It came out "Do pass" unanimously. There were some substantial changes. It still says we can't have replacement meals; we can't dispose of or stigmatize or require work. It mirrors what Fargo Public Schools already does. We have \$90,000 of unpaid school lunch debt this year. If we don't collect, it comes out of the budget. That's equivalent to 2 teacher's salaries. It costs the district not the state. This one has a better chance of passing.</p> <p>Discussion was had on the transgender bills. The Committee expressed the desire to ensure that we show our support for our students. Dr. Rupak Gandhi reported that Fargo Public Schools has committed to any new building or renovation including unisex bathrooms. We will not have gender identified bathrooms moving forward. For now, every administrator will allow students to use any restroom of their choice or that their gender identifies with, and administrators will always give access to a single stall, if needed.</p> <p>Committee discussion was had on Senate Bill 2260 related to parental involvement in a student's education. We do want parents to be involved. Parent involvement is better for our</p>	

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	<p>students. This would put a large burden on our teachers, especially elementary teaches. Parent permission to partake in a student activity was crushed on the Senate floor. We need to trust our teachers. Parents need to be involved. We need good communication.</p> <p>The revenue forecast came out. The bills that are sitting there now are \$2 Billion over what they wanted to spend. They are trying to get rid of some pet bills--could be the universal lunches bill. The percentage for school funding is still sitting at 3 and 3.</p>	
Next Meeting Date	The committee will meet next on April 5 at 12:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room.	
Next Meeting: April 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.		