

Meeting Minutes: Governmental Affairs Committee**Date/Time:** June 6, 2023 – 7:30 a.m.**Location:** District Office Board Room**Start:** 7:30 a.m. **End:** 8:22 a.m.**Committee Members Present:** Robin Nelson, Greg Clark, Melissa Burkland, Katie Christensen, and Nyamal Dei**Committee Members Absent:****Board Members Present:** Jim Johnson**Staff Members Present:** Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Tara Brandner, Jackie Gapp and Jeff McCanna (Remote)**Recorder:** Amy Patterson

Agenda Item	Discussion – Conclusion	Recommendations/Actions
Approval of May 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes	The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 2, 2023 meeting.	Minutes will be posted on the Board's section of the public website.
Review Session	<p>The committee debriefed on the session and discussion was had on how this session went and improvements for next year. Discussion was had on legislative bill tracking and the value of the weekly updates for active bills.</p> <p>Discussion was had on the Board email updates from Chair Robin Nelson and the quantity, volume, and content. Discussion was had on the intended audience and the value of going deeper. It was agreed that there is value in sharing, even if it is repetitive. Discussion was had on the weekly legislative update emails and the value it brings. Consensus was that the committee should keep the weekly legislative updates.</p> <p>Discussion was had about the need to meet more often, potentially weekly or every other week, especially in the beginning. Whoever is a part of the next Governmental Affairs Committee should consider having more meetings early on to get ahead of things and better divide and conquer, so that everyone is able to do their part. A suggestion was made to have weekly or bi-weekly meetings until it is no longer necessary. If the Committee meets early in the session, each member can take certain bills to follow, stay on top of, and report on.</p> <p>Dr. Rupak Gandhi suggested a work model for the Committee. The Committee would meet to establish philosophies and positions on issues. The Committee would then assign topics/bills to each member who collaborates with the General Counsel to track and suggest testimony. The Committee would meet bi-weekly to approve work or proposed testimony on assigned areas. Each time the Board submits testimony, we speak as the Board in a collective voice. Testimony should be posted on our public website. Each time testimony is submitted, it could be worthy of a social media post. Discussion was had and the consensus of the Committee is that this could work well. The Committee will more widely communicate</p>	<p>The Committee will consider meeting more often next year.</p> <p>The Committee will keep the weekly legislative updates.</p>

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	<p>their positions on important issues. The Committee will leverage expertise and give opportunities to staff who are passionate about issues to speak.</p> <p>Discussion was had on the pre-session Legislator Information Meeting. It was agreed that getting everyone in the same room before everything starts was a good thing. It was nice to have face time and be in person. With so many new legislators, it was a fantastic way to meet the new legislators.</p> <p>Discussion was had about Crossover and the best timing for it. It was agreed that it is valuable but the timing is the issue. This year legislators started early and were having such crazy long days that the timing ended up being bad, even without the snow storm. We do want to have a presence in Bismarck and should send members to session from time to time. There is great value in an in-person presence.</p> <p>The committee produced recommendations for next year as follows: more meetings, more communications, more engagement; involve more District employees with expertise and passion; consider making buckets of Bills to assign to committee members; consider more broadly sharing our positions on bills; work with communications team and use social media and the staff newsletter to communicate more broadly.</p>	
Next Steps	<p>Discussion was had about the benefit of coming up with Philosophies or Guiding Principles for the Committee. The Committee will work on this in the interim.</p> <p>The common themes from this legislative session were Trusting Educators Judgment, Local Control, Helping Students Succeed, Do Not Believe in Limiting Knowledge or Censorship. The Committee will work to come up with more. This will help guide the committee as to what they testify and write testimony on.</p> <p>The committee mostly works on state law, but we are also responsible for city and federal law as well. For federal law, we can be as involved as we see fit. For city law, the committee normally stays in its lane, unless there is something that impacts us and requires a response. It was noted that the committee counts on our state association to take the lead on various state issues. The committee will continue to be involved and keep an eye on important issues for the District.</p> <p>The Governmental Affairs Committee is adjourned for the year. The new committee will convene once officially formed at the July School Board meeting. The current committee will work to set the new committee up for success.</p>	<p>The Committee will build its philosophies, follow interim studies closely, be involved and keep an eye on important issues.</p>

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Next Meeting Date	The committee Adjourned for FY 2022-23 and will reconvene when the new FY 2023-24 committee is created.	The Governmental Affairs Committee will reconvene in August with its new committee.