



Board Meeting Date: March 13, 2023

Title: Legislative Action Committee (LAC) Mid-Session Update

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Julie Greene, Legislative Action Committee

Description: The Edina Legislative Action Committee has been busy working through the 2023 LAC strategy and plan using the Board approved [LAC 2023 legislative priorities](#) as a platform for advocacy efforts. The current legislative session began on January 3, 2023 and will run through May 22, 2023.

Below is an update on 2022-23 LAC efforts to date. The LAC will continue to engage throughout the session and will share a final report after the end of the session.

Recommendation: Please review the LAC update.

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: Board continues engagement in LAC 2023 plan.

Attachments: 2023 Advocacy Letter for Legislators on LAC Priorities

Update on 2022-23 LAC Efforts

- The LAC began meeting on a monthly basis in **September, 2022**. Monthly check-in meetings also began with Dr. Stanley, Superintendent and Jody Remsing, Director of Student Services and LAC Board members.
- In **December 2022**, pre-legislative visits to Edina Public Schools were arranged by LAC and Superintendent Dr. Stanley for Sen. Alice Mann, Rep. Heather Edelson and Rep. Cheryl Youakim that included a tour and conversation with staff at the EPS Transportation Facility, plus an interactive tour at Edina High School led by Principal Beaton and LAC student representative, Sofia Doval
- Board approved the [2023 Legislative Platform, Goals and Plan](#) as outlined and recommended by the LAC on **January 9, 2023**.
- The [LAC page](#) on the district Website continues to hold updated and relevant information including announcements of events for the public to attend.
- Starting in **January (ongoing)**, LAC member Kate Quale leads tracking of bills aligned with the LAC priorities throughout session; LAC will continue to target advocacy efforts.
- 2023 LAC Legislative Breakfast was held on **January 24, 2023** (after a snow day reschedule!) with **60 attendees** including local legislators, Rep. Heather Edelson, Rep. Cheryl Youakim and a staff representative from US State Rep. Dean Phillips office. In addition, School Board members, Edina City Council representatives, students,

administrators, teachers, community partner groups and community members also attended. Outreach efforts for the public were widespread with invites, notices in the Sun Current, EPS communication channels and posted on the district Web site. *Highlight: four student representatives from VVMS and SVMS spoke to their student experience as part of the program.*

- Sun Current article '[Edina Public Schools presents legislative platform](#)' on **February 2, 2023**.
- [Article in Edina High School's Zephyrus](#) (legislative breakfast) on **February 2, 2023**.
- **Late February**, an LAC Take Advocacy Action Plan was distributed to LAC mailing list (growing list) to encourage community engagement opportunities for advocacy efforts and distributed to school communities through PTOs via parent leadership council.
- On **Wednesday, March 8, 2023**, the LAC held a Day at the Capitol event for our school district community to join efforts with partner organization, Association Metropolitan School District, to advocate in St. Paul for education.
 - 34 total attendees joined from 8am-3pm attending Education Committee meetings in both the house and senate; 1:1 meetings with legislators Sen. Alice Mann, Rep. Youakim and Rep. Edelson. Leading the questions were LAC student representatives, Sabeeh Mirza, Raja Chinnakotla and Sofia Doval.
 - EHS Social Studies teacher, Chris Griggs, led 15 9th grade government students who were immersed in advocacy efforts along with LAC; *Highlight: students hand-delivering hundreds of letters from EHS students to their representatives sharing their views on current bills.*
 - EHS Zephyrus student staff followed throughout the day capturing the essence of the day with interviews, b-roll and photography (story coming)
 - Also joining the LAC were school board members and several community members.
- **March 8, 2023**, from LAC addressing education stabilization and cross-subsidies were hand-delivered by the LAC at the Capitol asking for action (see attached).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you.