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## Fwd: Capitol Watch 1.31.18 - Property Tax Relief, Pension Reform and a Balanced Budget

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com> Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 7:42 AM  
To: Dara Thompson <dthompson@panaschools.com>

February Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **IASA** <[iasa@iasaedu.org](mailto:iasa@iasaedu.org)>

Date: Wed, Jan 31, 2018 at 4:55 PM

Subject: Capitol Watch 1.31.18 - Property Tax Relief, Pension Reform and a Balanced Budget

To: [jbauer@panaschools.com](mailto:jbauer@panaschools.com)



January 31, 2018



## **Property Tax Relief, Pension Reform and a Balanced Budget**

Governor Rauner delivered his 4th State of the State Address this afternoon and reiterated many tenets of his Turnaround Agenda. Property tax relief has been a rallying cry for the Governor since his 2014 campaign and today he described property taxes as "a viscous form of oppression[that] traps people in their homes, vaporizes their equity, drives mortgages under water, and in some cases, pushes people out of our state". He believes the best way to give property tax relief is through legislation to allow local voters the "ability to lower their property taxes through a simple voter referendum."

Property taxes are the primary tool of funding public education in Illinois and now the General Assembly has passed, what the Governor calls, "historic reforms to end one of the most inequitable school funding formulas in the country." Governor Rauner is referring to the evidence based funding bill, SB 1947, which will give hundreds of school districts new funding. He continued, "For most districts it will be a welcome and long overdue infusion of new money for their programs. However, no new money has been given to school districts since the new funding formula law was passed last summer.

The Governor briefly mentioned a task force being created to combat the agriculture teacher shortage in the state but made no mention of the overall teacher shortage in Illinois, where nearly 2,000 teaching positions are unfilled this school year.

Staying with his Turnaround agenda, the Governor acknowledged the ever-increasing cost of public pensions. He said "In FY2019, our pension costs will rise another \$600 million" and charged legislators with not having the courage to change the status quo.

Possibly the biggest moment of the speech was when the Governor announced he will propose a balance budget in two weeks. Someone on the House floor yelled, "really?". The Governor went off-script with his response and said he hopes the legislature will pass his balance budget instead of ignoring it like last year.

The Governor's Budget address is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th at noon.

### **General Assembly Overrides Governor's Amendatory Veto of SB 444**

Prior to the Governor's address, both the Senate and the House voted to override his amendatory veto of SB444, a bill drafted to correct flaws in SB 1947. Governor Rauner vetoed SB 444 earlier this month because he wanted to allow more private schools to be eligible for the tuition tax credit scholarship program. A compromise was later reached, which will speed up state recognition of non-public schools wanting to participate in a tax-credit program. However, an Illinois State Board of Education Official said in the House Appropriation Committee Monday, another technical issue has been found in the wording of the funding reform bill. Additional legislation is now needed to correct the issue so that schools can receive the new tier funding.

We will continue to provide more information as it becomes available.

Diane L. Hendren  
Director of Governmental Relations  
Illinois Association of School Administrators

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