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Fwd: Capitol Watch: Call to Action, Another Concerning Bill and EBF On Track to be Funded

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Bridgett Heinrich <bheinrich@panaschools.com>

Fri, May 7, 2021 at 1:43 PM

May 17 Regular Board Meeting

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

From: **IASA** <iasa@iasaedu.org>
Date: Fri, May 7, 2021 at 1:28 PM
Subject: Capitol Watch: Call to Action, Another Concerning Bill and EBF On Track to be Funded
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>

**Call to Action, Another Concerning Bill and EBF On Track to be Funded**

Mandate madness continues, but at least there was some positive news Thursday when Gov. J.B. Pritzker **announced** he was in position to propose a \$350 million increase into Evidence-Based Funding due to the state's improved financial outlook.

Pritzker's original proposal of flat funding for EBF received enormous bipartisan pushback, so we are pleased to see him reconsider and support making this investment into our schools. We know EBF dollars are **Making a Difference**. Now, hopefully, this investment into EBF is included in the final FY 2022 budget.

Alas, the purpose of this Capitol Watch is to issue a second **Call to Action** on the proposal to mandate one hour of unstructured playtime for all students in K-8, as well as make you aware of a new measure that would strengthen the ability of unions to push back against school boards if they feel their work conditions are unhealthy or unsafe.

Call to Action: 1 Hour of Daily, Unstructured "Playtime" in Grades K-8
SB 654 Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago); Rep. Aaron Ortiz (D-Chicago)
Sign Witness Slip in Opposition.

The proposal would require all public schools to provide daily time for supervised, unstructured, child-directed play for all students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The bill provides that playtime shall not count as a course of physical education. Playtime would count toward the five-clock hour requirement.

IASA and IPA are working with the sponsors on an amendment that would make this proposal more manageable for schools by limiting the requirement to grades K-5, instead of grades K-8.

However, the original idea is still viable. Please sign a witness slip in opposition and contact your local **Representatives** and share how this proposal would impact your district. Concerns to raise include the challenges of incorporating playtime into grades 6-8 and how difficult it would be to comply with curricular mandates.

The legislation could be heard May 12 by the House Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies Committee.

Unions and Work Conditions

Senate Amendment 1 to SB 1204 Sen. Linda Holmes (D-Aurora)

Senate Amendment 1 to SB 1204 amends the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act to incorporate health and safety reasons as a justification for engaging in protected union activity. The bill also authorizes educational employees to engage in a “good faith concerted cessation or suspension of labor” due to abnormally dangerous work conditions.

In effect, these changes to existing law allow unions more autonomy to push back against their boards if they feel that their work conditions are unhealthy or unsafe.

SB 1204 was a shell bill and this amendment was filed April 28. On Thursday, the Senate Executive Committee adopted the amendment by a vote of 9-5.

IASA will continue to negotiate with the bill sponsor, but the time may come soon where we need to make our voices heard on this issue.

After our last lengthy Capitol Watch, I will keep this report short on a Friday. We will continue to have conversations with legislators and stakeholders on the plethora of unfunded and curricular mandates proposed this year and keep you updated on changes and developments via Capitol Watch.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Diane Hendren
Director of Governmental Relations
Illinois Association of School Administrators

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