



Board Meeting Date: June 12, 2023

Title: Legislative Action Committee (LAC) 2023-24 Recommendation

Type: Discussion

Presenter(s): Legislative Action Committee (LAC)

Description: The School Board approved 2022-23 Board Goals that continue to include advocacy as a top priority. In January, 2022, the Board approved a three-year plan to integrate the LAC into Board responsibilities and work in partnership with the District. In addition, advocacy efforts on behalf of our schools also work to meet priorities outlined in the District's Strategic Plan Strategy E.

**Edina Public Schools Strategic Plan 2020-2025 (approved Spring, 2020)
Strategy E | Engage Parents, Schools and Community**

Edina Public Schools works in partnership with parents, students, staff, alumni and community to serve as a reflection of Edina's strong commitment to education.

4. Leverage partnerships with community groups, businesses, local and state government agencies and individuals to strengthen and foster relationships with EPS

Recommendation: Please review the materials provided.

Desired Outcome(s) from the Board: Board approves the Year 3 LAC 2023-24 Plans, the Revised By-Laws and the LAC 2023-24 Committee Recommendation

Attachment(s): Revised LAC By-Laws

Recap on 2023-24 LAC Efforts

The LAC is pleased to report that the 2022-2023 LAC goals and measurements for Year 2 were achieved. To recall, **Year 2** focus was to expand on learnings from Year 1 with an additional focus on building community membership in the LAC. In addition to the mid-year report presented to the Board in March, 2023, here are a few additional highlights:

- Board approved the [2023 Legislative Platform, Goals and Plan](#) as outlined and recommended by the LAC on **January 9, 2023**.
- Dedicated .2/FTE district admin LAC specialist provided support for the LAC starting in Fall, 2022 providing invaluable and consistent assistance with LAC activities and efforts.
- Article in the EHS newspaper Zephyrus covered the **Wednesday, March 8, 2023** LAC Day at the Capitol event. [Article is here](#).
- LAC continued advocacy efforts to the end of the legislative session (May 22) with emails, phone calls, texts and 1:1 meetings with all representatives. Education-related policies and funding were included in several bills outside of the Omnibus Education Bill. **We are pleased to report that the majority of our LAC priorities saw movement at the Capitol this session.**
- The LAC hosted a **Session Summary event** on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023**, to recap policies and funding passed at the legislature during the 2023 session and their impact on Edina Public Schools. A link to the event can be found on the [LAC web page](#).
- LAC conducted **extensive outreach efforts to recruit potential LAC members for the 2023-24** school year receiving a record number of applicants for the LAC from both students and community members. Interviews took place in mid-May and the recommended committee for 2023-24 is included in this update (see below).
- **Legislators** are considering added communication and **visits to Edina Public Schools in the coming year** to continue building relationships.
- The LAC has secured a **college-age student volunteer for summer 2023** to provide needed LAC background support (policy research, Website, mailing list, training materials, marketing infrastructure, etc)

2. Recommended 2023-24 LAC Committee Members for Board Approval

The depth of experience and perspective from this committee is deep with a large emphasis on student voice and engagement, plus community members with education funding expertise, special education and advocacy experience. We also have three returning LAC members from 2022-23 that will take lead roles. All members understand the commitment, meet the required LAC bylaws and are enthusiastic about joining advocacy efforts.

2023-24 LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE

Julie Greene*	Board Member, LAC Chair
Dan Arom*	Board Member
Janie Shaw*	Board Member
Dr. Stacie Stanley*	Superintendent, Edina Public Schools
Jody Remsing*	Director, Student Support Services
Polly Bowles*	LAC Department Specialist, Edina Public Schools
Kate Quale*	Community Member
Michael Hart	Community Member
Bea Lyon	Community Member
Sofia Doval*	Student, 12th grade
Raja Chinnakotla*	Student, 12th grade
Evangelia Karoussos	Student, 12th grade
Matthew Smith	Student, 12th grade
Rowan Eggum	Student, 12th grade
Joe Lindberg	Student, 12th grade
Maggie Salmen	Student, 12th grade
Kawthar Benarouch	Student, 12th grade
George Rerat	Student, 12th grade
Mina Bhargava	Student, 11th grade
Regina Loria-Procel	Student, 11th grade
Anushka Narielwala	Student, 10th grade
Helen Chu	Student, 10th grade
Alvi Buzar Barua	Student, 10th grade
Aditi Jha	Student, 9th grade

**returning 2022-23 members*

3. LAC By-Laws for Board Approval

As part of the Year 2 plan to assess and evaluate as we develop long-term planning for LAC success and key learnings, we are recommending the attached changes to the LAC By-Laws that are consistent with how we can best operate. Please review.

Once these revised By-laws are approved by the Board, we can provide the Policy Committee with any appropriate changes to [Policy 213](#) – School Board Committees and [Policy 217](#) School Board Legislative Involvement to align changes.

4. 2023-24 LAC Plan

The 2023-24 school year is also Year 3 of our Board LAC plan. Moving into the next year, the LAC is well-positioned to focus on advocacy work with a strong structure in

place to build capacity for the work. At the MN State Capitol for the 2024 session, it is scheduled to be a policy year for legislators.

For the 2023-24 year, LAC plans to focus on the following:

- LAC 2024 priorities development (wide approach with evaluation and collaboration, consider state and federal opportunities, etc.)
- Build a strong systems support for growth of LAC (members training, purpose, engagement) to ensure efficiency and impact of committee work in years ahead
- Focus on relationship building with legislators and Edina Public Schools (schedule visits to sites, conversations led by LAC)
- Student-driven advocacy efforts
- Ongoing LAC district admin support (.2 FTE), continue to develop capacity for long-term planning and implementation

In addition, the LAC is requesting an increase in budget from \$250 (2022-23) to \$1,000 in discretionary funds for the 2023-2024 session. With the growth of the LAC, this funding is more in sync with spending needs to maximize advocacy efforts.

Budget/LAC 2023-24

TOTAL: \$1000

(For legislators + LAC events, LAC marketing materials, LAC Day at Capitol, transportation, etc.)

LAC 2023-24 meetings are scheduled to begin in September.

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

ATTACHMENT 1:

By-Laws Revised (June, 2023)