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## Fwd: TAMS Legislative Update on Special Session

1 message

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 To: NORMA CERVETTO <NORMA.CERVETTO@sville.us>

Thu, Jun 15, 2017 at 3:59 PM

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*'Developing the Potential of Every Student, Every Day'*

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From: **Sandy Schwartz** <sschwartz@midsize-schools.org>  
 Date: Tue, Jun 6, 2017 at 5:24 PM  
 Subject: TAMS Legislative Update on Special Session  
 To:

The below report is from our lobbyist Ellen Williams.

Governor Greg Abbott today announced a legislative special session that will begin on July 18th, 2017. In his announcement, Governor Abbott identified 20 items – including vouchers and bathrooms – that will be included on the special session call.

"Considering all the successes of the 85th legislative session, we should not be where we are today," said Governor Abbott. "A special session was entirely avoidable, and there was plenty of time for the legislature to forge compromises to avoid the time and taxpayer expense of a special session."

His first item will be Sunset legislation extending the life of the board that regulates the medical profession. This is a bill that died in the Senate. If the Senate passes that Sunset measure quickly, Governor Abbott said, he will then add 19 more issues to the call. Many of those 19 are Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's priorities, including bathrooms, property tax caps, and vouchers.

"As Governor, if I am going to call a special session, I intend to make it count," he said, not wanting to spend taxpayer money just to pass the Sunset bill.

Lt. Gov. Patrick congratulated Abbott, and House Speaker Joe Straus said the House "looks forward to resuming our work on school finance and other challenges facing this state."

Below are special session agenda items:

- 1 Sunset legislation (first priority)
- 2 Teacher pay increase of \$1,000 (saying teacher pay was "too low," he called for increasing teacher pay by \$1,000 but "Texas doesn't need to spend more but needs to reprioritize how schools spend money")
- 3 Administrative flexibility in teacher hiring and retention practices to "replace ineffective teachers"
- 4 School finance reform commission (he cited Sen. Larry Taylor's SB 2144 and replacing the "failed Robin Hood program")
- 5 School choice for special needs students (he cited Rep. Simmons' bill, which was private school vouchers/ESAs for special needs children)
- 6 Property tax reform including
- 7 Caps on state and local spending to "rein in the growth of state and local spending" to not exceed population growth and inflation
- 8 Preventing cities from regulating what property owners do with trees on private land
- 9 Preventing local governments from changing rules midway through construction projects
- 10 Speeding up local government permitting process
- 11 Municipal annexation reform
- 12 Texting while driving preemption
- 13 Privacy
- 14 Prohibition of taxpayer dollars to collect union dues
- 15 Prohibition of taxpayer funding for abortion providers
- 16 Pro-life insurance reform
- 17 Strengthening abortion reporting requirements when health complications arise
- 18 Strengthening patient protections relating to do-not-resuscitate orders
- 19 Cracking down on mail-in ballot fraud
- 20 Extending maternal mortality task force

**Sandy Schwartz**