

Board Report Item

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

February 14, 2017

Legislative Update in preparation for the 85th Legislative Session

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to update the Board of Trustees on our partnership with the State and Federal Joint Commission with Denton County. This report also references for pending legislation as related to public education.

Objectives:

Denton County Days Update:

The Public Education Team, a subcommittee of the State and Federal Joint Relations Committee, has been identified. The team will be represented by:

- Dr. Jamie Wilson, Superintendent of Schools
- Barbara Burns, Denton ISD School Board President
- Michele Barber, Vice President of Marketing, Guaranty Bank and Trust
- Ray David, Jr., President of Point Bank

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- Glenn Farris, Sales and Leasing for Verus Advisors
- Kevin Roden, Chief Implementation Office for Pascal Learning and Denton City Councilman

The Public Education Team has been invited to an informal meeting on Thursday, February 16th, at 3:00 p.m. at the District offices. This meeting will be an opportunity for the team to get to know one another, review the District's legislative priorities, and hear from some of the experts in legislation related to public education. We have also extended an invitation to four of our District teachers, who participate on the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE) Legislative Committee.

In support of our community partnership and Denton County, our Board of Trustees will be participating on the following State and Federal Joint Relations Committees during this legislative session:

- Doug Chadwick – Higher Education Team
- Mia Price – United Way (Education) Team
- Charles Stafford – Local Control Team
- Dorothy Martinez – Small Business Team

The Denton ISD team will also be joined by Dr. Richard Valenta and Gwen Perkins during Denton County Days in Austin, Texas.

As of Tuesday, February 7, 2017, the House had not assigned committee members for Public Education. However, the Senate Committee on Education has seen numerous bill come into their committee. Access the complete list here at:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C530>

On Friday, February 3, 2017, the Texas Tribune published *Analysis: A \$100 million reinterpretation of Texas school finance law*. The article outlines an interesting reinterpretation of the state's recapture law, often referred to as 'Robin Hood', which has been on the books since 1999. Access the complete article here at:

<http://www.texastribune.org/2017/02/03/analysis-100-million-reinterpretation-texas-school-finance-law/>

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

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Operational Impact:

Operational impact for participation in the Denton County Days in Austin, Texas will include related travel, accommodations, and meal expenses for this event.

Results:

Advantages:

Support our partnership with Denton County as we advocate for legislation, which supports the communities of Denton County and the Denton Independent School District. Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature may have significant impact to policies directly impacting public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

Disadvantages:

None noted.

Other Options:

None noted.