

Legislative Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 3:45 PM

Downers Grove Civic Center, 850 Curtiss Street, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

1. **Opening Items**

1.A. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. **Approval of Minutes**

2.A. Minutes of the October 1, 2025 meeting

3. **Legislative Breakfast**

3.A. Format & Question Topics

4. **Legislative Updates**

4.A. Legislative Updates

5. **Public Comment**

6. **Adjournment**

DISTRICT 58 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
Minutes of October 1, 2025

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 3:45 p.m. at the Downers Grove Civic Center.

Call to Order

Melissa Ellis called the meeting to order at 3:52 p.m.

Present

Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer, Chuck Brewster, Julie Byars, Zachary Craft, Melissa Ellis, Cam Johnson, Julie Relihan, Kevin Russell, Bruce Swanson, Kelly Novotny, Katie Thomas.

Absent

Phil Bolton, Emily Hanlon, Allison Rickard, Jason Suchy.

Approval of Minutes

Bruce Swanson moved and Chuck Brewster seconded the motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2025. Motion carried.

2025 IASB Resolutions Committee Report

Member Ellis provided an overview of the IASB resolution process. This year's committee report includes mostly governance-related constitutional amendments. While one proposal raised a possible concern, it was noted that the District will submit an email to IASB to highlight the potential administrative issue.

Member Ellis also shared that one proposal focuses on allowing alternative voting methods, in addition to in-person voting, to ensure all school boards are represented. IASB will continue to explore this issue to determine whether alternative methods are necessary.

The only proposed resolution submitted by a school district relates to securing funding for installing three-point seatbelts on school buses. While general education buses typically do not have seatbelts, smaller special education buses often do. The resolution seeks a dedicated funding source for retrofitting buses, which is estimated to cost approximately \$17,000–\$18,000 per bus. The Resolutions Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.

Legislative Breakfast

Member Ellis provided an overview of the District's annual legislative breakfast, which offers an opportunity to discuss issues important to District 58 and the surrounding communities with federal, state and local legislators.

Committee members were asked to save Friday, January 23, 2026 for the legislative breakfast, with Friday, February 20 as an alternative date. Due to the O’Neill science fair setup on January 24, the District may consider moving the event location from O’Neill to Herrick. Both dates have been shared with legislators; however, their session calendars for January and February have not yet been finalized.

Dr. Russell reported that Representative Terra Costa Howard (District 42) has left her legislative position following her appointment to a judgeship. The District will establish communication with the new representative once an appointment has been made.

Legislative Updates

Dr. Russell also provided an update on current state funding concerns, which will be a key topic at the legislative breakfast:

- The majority of District funding comes from property taxes. Additional funds are received from the federal government (pending approval of the new federal budget), the state’s evidence-based funding model, and categorical reimbursements.
- The District is closely monitoring potential impact on federal funding for English Learners, low-income students, and Medicaid reimbursements for special education services.
- The evidence-based funding model provides little to no annual increase due to the District’s adequacy level.
- Mandatory categorical costs, especially relating to transportation, have increased significantly in recent years. However, the District is not receiving full reimbursement from the State as expected. The Interim Housing Center (IHC) in our District has created a unique challenge, driving rapidly growing transportation expenses.
- The District continues to raise these concerns with ISBE and the DuPage County Board and plans to address them at the breakfast.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Zac Craft moved and Chuck Brewster seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

District 58 Legislative Breakfast 2026 Discussion Starters

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025 Meeting Notes

Save the Date:

Friday, January 23, 2026 (alternative date Friday, February 20)

7:30-9:00 a.m. (Doors open at 7:00 a.m. for open conversation and light breakfast)

O'Neill Middle School, 635 59th St., Downers Grove, IL 60516

Format:

- [2025 Format](#)
- [2025 Survey Results](#)
- Suggestions from 2024-25 Legislative Committee discussions/survey:
 - Same start time 7:30? 30-min mingle/open conversation?
 - One general opening question or let elected officials make an opening statement? Limit time to reserve enough time for small group discussion
 - Consider moving the opening statement to a closing “reflection” statement - what is one takeaway for each elected official from today’s event?
 - Desire for attendees to pick legislators assigned to their table
 - Keep groups small - easier to hear and engage
 - More space between tables or move to smaller rooms?
 - Table format/structure - difficult to hear, reserve a seat for the elected official in the middle of the group
 - How can we keep the conversation and not get bogged down on one topic?
 - Provide questions/topics to guests ahead of time for consideration
 - Have notecards for guests to write down questions for legislators to answer after the event
 - Small group assignments – allow guests to pick a preferred legislator? Mix groups of people (admin/teacher vs. parent/non-educator)? Student representative at each table?
 - Consider: assign specific topics to specific tables. Seek out which legislators want to participate in which topics. Two-way - ask legislators which education topics they would like to discuss, and we share topics that we would like to discuss – then see which ones they would prefer to discuss/be assigned to.
 - Have a specific ask for elected officials - what one thing do we want them to do as an outcome? Call to action item.

Question Topics:

- [2025 Small Group Questions](#)
- **2026 Question Topics** - what topics do we want to include? We will refine the question language and finalize at our next meeting on 1/7/26