Legislative Committee Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 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 September 30, 2026 meeting

3. **Conversation with Jen Figurelli, LEND**

4. **Legislative Breakfast**

4.A. Potential Dates

5. **Legislative Updates**

5.A. Legislative Updates

6. **Public Comment**

7. **Adjournment**

District 58 Legislative Committee

Minutes of September 30, 2026

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 3:45 p.m. at the Downers Grove Civic Center.

Call to Order

Katie Thomas called the meeting to order at 3:55 p.m.

Present

Katie Thomas, Kevin Russell, Melissa Jerves, Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer, Chuck Brewster, Julie Byars, Allison Rickard, Bruce Swanson, Emily Teising.

Absent

Zac Craft, Emily Hanlon, Julie Relihan, Jason Suchy.

Approval of Minutes

Chuck Brewster moved and Julie Byars seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

IASB Resolutions Report

Dr. Russell provided a summary of each resolution and the committee had an opportunity to ask questions and then vote whether or not to recommend.

1. Tier 2 Pension Reform: The resolution urges the General Assembly and Governor to enact legislation to fix Tier 2 pension issues, which include retirement benefits that do not meet Safe Harbor requirements and would trigger federal tax penalties for states, as well as act as a deterrent to hiring quality candidates.
2. Public Financing of School Districts: The resolution seeks to hold counties responsible for late tax disbursements that cause school districts to incur high-interest debt to cover their expenses.
3. FOIA Safeguards: The resolution seeks additional safeguards in the FOIA law to reduce the significant staff time and expense associated with responding to recurrent, often AI-generated FOIA requests.

The committee unanimously recommended that all of these resolutions be adopted.

The committee also reviewed the two resolutions that were not recommended by the IASB Resolutions Committee.

1. Lowering the number of nominating signatures for school board candidates to 25: the committee agreed that the existing 50-signature requirement is not too high a bar for candidates.
2. Giving more authority to school districts to audit and conduct income/eligibility verification for free and reduced lunch/fee waivers: the committee agreed that existing audit procedures are sufficient.

The committee unanimously agreed that neither should be recommended for appeal.

Legislative Breakfast Discussion

Dr. Russell stated that the administration plans to identify potential dates for the Legislative Breakfast by the next meeting; these dates are dependent on when the General Assembly is in session.

Proposed Structure for Legislative Committee

A shift in the structure of the Legislative Committee was proposed, from more of an informational focus to more action-based. In addition to sponsoring the Legislative Breakfast, the committee could also invite legislators and guests to committee meetings, where members could educate and advocate for issues such as increased funding for mandated categoricals and unique expenditures like the Interim Housing Center. The District is a member of LEND, an advocacy group for DuPage County school districts. LEND could share its expertise in lobbying in Springfield with the committee. The committee can also expand its membership to include more members of the community who have expressed interest in advocacy on behalf of District 58. Existing committee members expressed support for this change in direction for the Legislative Committee.

Legislative Updates

None.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Bruce Swanson moved and Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:41 p.m.