



Robbinsdale Area Schools School Board Meeting Agenda

Monday, December 16, 2013 at 5:30 PM

Work Session

Education Service Center Boardroom, 4148 Winnetka Avenue North,
New Hope, Minnesota

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1. Legislative Action Coalition (LAC) Platform 2
Presenter: - Al Ickler, Kim Lewis, Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Jenny Holte, and
Scott Croonquist
 2. Board Officers for 2014
 3. Contract Protocol



MEMO

DATE: December 16, 2013

TO: Members of the School Board
Superintendent Aldo Sicoli

FROM: Al Ickler
Executive Director – Community Education

RE: **Legislative Action Coalition –
2014 Legislative Platform Draft**

The board will participate in a discussion regarding the 2014 platform drafted by the Legislative Action Coalition (LAC).

The 2014 legislative platform focuses on advocating for the resources needed to ensure all children are successful, and policies that will provide effective and efficient use of the resources.

Legislative Action Coalition Co-chairs, Jon Miners and Heather Kehn, will present the proposed platform. LAC members, Jenny Holte, Scott Croonquist and Andrea Bejarano-Robinson along with Al Ickler, executive director of community education, and Kim Lewis, program assistant, will join in the presentation.

Members of the Legislative Action Coalition of Robbinsdale Area Schools advocate for our public school district and the learners, families, and communities it serves. Members are citizen volunteers who share an interest in legislative advocacy and a passion for public education.

Robbinsdale Area Schools Legislative Action Coalition 2014 Legislative Platform Draft

We believe each Minnesota child deserves to attend a great public school and obtain an excellent education. To achieve this, Minnesota needs to amend its education funding and delivery system to meet the needs of today's students. All students must graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the 21st century.

Great Learning & Great Schools

Minnesota must provide adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding sufficient to meet the instructional needs of our current students and prepare all of our students to succeed in a post-secondary program. The Robbinsdale Area Schools (RAS) Legislative Action Coalition (LAC) will advocate for:

- Ensure schools have sufficient means to prepare all students to be career and college ready by linking the **basic education formula** to inflation, and fully funding **special education** mandates.
- Make certain that the new teacher **evaluation processes** are strong, fair, but not overly burdensome.
- Ensure *all* schools can support 21st century learning by establishing a school board approved **technology** levy.
- Provide a dedicated, sustainable funding stream to allow school districts to expand **school-based early learning** programs.

Enhancing local control and decision making

We believe state and local school districts must partner to improve education outcomes. School boards are best positioned to understand local issues and make decisions regarding district programs and finances. *As elected officials*, school boards should be on a level playing field with other local units of government. We will advocate for:

- Allow a school board to evaluate all **mandates** and eliminate those which are outdated or not functional. Mandates that are deemed essential should be fully funded.
- Recognize students must feel safe and comfortable in their learning environment. Ensure the proposed **Safe and Supportive Schools** legislation focuses on protecting students without overreaching. Also, the **Safe Schools levy** must be sufficient to support safe learning environments.
- Support efforts that open pathways to learning and eliminate barriers by:
 - Promoting health and nutrition;
 - Promoting mental health services
 - Understanding stable housing is not something all learners have and its importance for education.
- Allow local school boards the **autonomy** to control funding streams and renew an expiring operating referendum by a majority vote of the school board.

Keeping an Eye on Washington

From a local perspective, we acknowledge sequestration is a national concern. The LAC urges Congress to rescind sequestration, the automatic, across-the-board cancellation of budgetary resources, to protect the education priorities in Minnesota and our nation. The LAC also supports national efforts to fully fund special education.

