

Roseville Area Schools District 623
Legislative Action Committee
Minutes, January 11, 2012, 6:30 pm, Fairview Community Center

Present: Ed Hodder, Glynis Hinschberger, Jill Johnson, Leslie Campbell, Teri Matthews, Linda McLoon, Karen Schaub

1. We welcomed new member Leslie Campbell, and went around the table with introductions.
2. Linda provided an update on the possible hearing of the Education Finance committee in our district. Apparently after multiple emails, the office of Rep. Garofalo has not responded. It is unclear whether we should try to do something or not. Apparently the visit from the governor has also fallen through.
3. We discussed our 2012 Legislative Platform, using our 2011 platform and the current platform from the Association of Metropolitan School Districts. The state is pushing for "reading at grade level by third grade". In light of this and other state-directed initiatives, four items were singled out for inclusion on the draft platform:
 - A. No new mandates without funding
 - B. All school districts to develop and expand school based early childhood education programs and full day kindergarten. Allow districts to levy for funds for these programs.
 - C. Eliminate the special education cross-subsidy. This needs to be addressed by fully funding special education either by providing sufficient state funding to make up for the shortfall in federal funds or establish an equalized local levy to cover unreimbursed special education costs.
 - D. Recognize that there are increased numbers of children living in poverty and increased numbers of children for whom English is a second language. Fully fund programs for helping these children achieve proficiency.
 - E. Allow school districts the local authority to increase the school year or school day.

We will gather additional input and try to finalize a draft platform at the next meeting.

3. Leslie suggested that it would be helpful to generate concerns from families in district 623, and that a Legislator Forum would be a good way to get a dialogue between families in our district and our local legislators. The group collectively thought this was a very good idea. Linda indicated she would contact area legislators and the district center to see about potential dates.
4. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.