



MSAA Legislative Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes December 16, 2020

Attendees: Tom Cavanaugh, Paul Daigle, Bill Chaplin, Jessica Downey, Josh Otlin, Darren Doane, Christine Vigneux, Coley Wash, Larry Murphy

Agenda:

- I. Leadership of the committee was established: Tom Cavanaugh, Chair; Margot Fraczek, Vice-Chair; Kristy Yankee, Secretary (Same as last year.)
- II. Reminder to fill out Conflict of Interest form provided. Can be done on-line.
- III. Approved minutes through unanimous vote.
- IV. Purpose/Review of the role of the committee in the MSAA was provided.
- V. Coley Walsh, Legislative Liaison for the MSAA presented information on the Governor's Budget. He shared the \$53 million dollars for schools was vetoed by the governor in favor of grants. This gives the governor control over who gets the money and how it is spent. Coley feels it will be overridden by the legislature.
Coley also discussed a Public Safety Bill under consideration. This concerns School Resource Officers and what power they may have? Concern this may be contributing to the "Pipeline to Prison." Coley also discussed the Federal Gov't's efforts to provide cities and towns relief. Stuck in the Senate. Possible changes to social security for with those receiving lower payments due to their receiving a pension. Coley reported on the vaccine and the first to receive will be hospital personnel. Lots of discussion with Coley on Retirement but most of the discussion centered around MCAS testing this year and in the future. Early retirement proposals are union driven and may actually exacerbate the funding problems for schools. Replacing the retired teachers won't be easy. Concerns it may take communities and states 10-15 years to recover financially from the pandemic. There are shortages of teachers already, especially minority teachers. Where will the new teachers come from? There was more discussion on pushing legislators to consider waivers for standardized testing after the Biden administration is in place. It was decided it was too soon to push DESE Commissioner Riley until we have more direction in February and March.
- VI. Larry shared a presentation from NASSP on "Creating Partnerships and Collaboration" with local and state representatives.
- VII. Request that all meetings be shared out to members of the committee and listed on the agenda sent out. Kathleen Kampersal will provide the dates.
- VIII. Adjourned: 1:14 p.m.
- IX. Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 - 12 noon.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS



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