

Legislative Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:45 PM Central

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 December 10, 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 December 10, 2025

The Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 3:45 p.m. at the Downers Grove Civic Center.

Call to Order

Kevin Russell called the meeting to order at 3:46 p.m.

Present

Sarah Borgetti Ebenezer, Julie Byars, Zachary Craft, Emily Hanlon, Cam Johnson, Julie Relihan, Kevin Russell, Bruce Swanson, Kelly Novotny.

Absent

Melissa Ellis, Chuck Brewster, Allison Rickard, Jason Suchy, Katie Thomas.

Approval of Minutes

Bruce Swanson moved and Julie Relihan seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2025. Motion carried.

Legislative Breakfast

The committee discussed the format of the District's annual legislative breakfast on January 23. This year the event will be held at Herrick Middle School; parking is more accessible and there is a door directly to the cafeteria. Federal legislators cannot attend this year due to their session schedule, but will likely send representatives. All state legislators plan to attend.

The legislators will begin by sitting on a panel and answering one question, followed by break-out groups of 10, with each legislator rotating through two sessions. Members of the Legislative Committee will have scripts with questions to prompt discussion if necessary and will keep track of time and moderate discussion. Attendees include all District administrators, Herrick student musicians, middle school student councils (to introduce legislators), neighboring districts' superintendents and school boards, community partners, Village officials, and county board.

The committee also discussed possible question topics:

- **Funding** - mandated categorical (MCAT) and evidence-based funding (EBF)
 - Transportation - impact of Interim Housing Center
 - State continues to put funds into EBF, but continues to reduce/prorate MCAT reimbursement.
 - Tier 3 - 4 schools are not getting the new money from the EBF. Proration of MCATS forces these districts to pay for the shortfall via the education

fund. This will have an impact on what the District currently is able to offer its students.

- What is the legislator’s plan for addressing the problem with the lack of MCAT reimbursement?
- Federal funding is also likely to be reduced/eliminated - must be used to supplement (not supplant) what we are doing (i.e., extra reading specialist at a school vs. admin salary)
- **Uniqueness of IHC in District** - is there something that they can propose to offset the transportation burden on DG58?
- **School Safety**
- **TRS Tier 2** - retirement program; created two tiers based on when they entered education. Tier 2 raised retirement age to 67 when they will be eligible to draw for TRS, but less than what they would have been eligible for Social Security. Bill now proposing changes to making changes to Tier 2, including lowering retirement age – a “patch” was passed above safe harbor - aligned with the minimum requirement of social security. What is the future fix going to be?
- **Teacher Shortage** - especially special education, EL, social workers, school psychologists, etc., because the certifications are different. The State hasn’t done anything to help with the issue.
 - Creating an easier pathway for certification.
- **Summative Designations** – under the Every Student Succeeds Act, the federal government requires a summative designation based on performance on assessment tests. Concerns with proposed summative designations. Where are they in considering the new designation structure?

Legislative Updates

Dr. Russell noted that the IASB resolutions and constitutional amendments were passed at the Delegate Assembly in November.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Bruce Swanson moved and Julie Relihan seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.