

Legislative Action Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to order at 7:35 P.M.

Salute to the Flag

Moment of Silence.

Absent members Nicholas Antonucci, Social Studies Teacher Sachem
East

Damon Gallo, Social Studies Teacher

Sachem East

Elizabeth Gutmann, Social Studies Teacher Sachem North

Jim LaCarrubba, Business Agent

Kate Long, Social Studies Teacher,

Sachem East

Bob Rahim, Student, Sachem H.S. North

Vinny Squillace, Student Sachem H.S.

East

Mary Sullivan, Registered Nurse

Sal Tripi, Director of Operations

Patrick Whelan, Student Sachem North

Present Members Sue Brandes, PTA Member

Michael Buffoleno, PTA Member

Fred Coste, Insurance Agency Owner

William Feehan, Sales Manager

Gregg Freedner, Lake Ronkonkoma Cikvic

Org. Officer

Corey Goodermote, Student Govt &

Student Leadership Student

Edward Hoffman, Business Manager

Kevin L. Hymms, Sachem North PTA

President, Civic Leader

Shawn Hymns, Student Sachem North
Sandra M. Jones, LI Developmental

Disabilities Svcs Office, Director

Ian Kolker, Market Manager, Chairperson

State Legislative Action Committee

Donna Laks, Parent, Registered

Dietitian

Linda Lunger, Director Clinical @ UICP,

Physical Therapist Committee Secretary

Dana Platin, Pre-school teacher SEPTA

President

Terry Sherwood, Parent
Sonya Stahlbush, Teacher, Sachem

Advisory Board Member

Robert Szewczuk, Operations Manager
Ally Tooulis, Student Sachem East
Edward Wozencroft, Student, Sachem North
Eileen Young, Casework Supervisor

Suffolk County Dept. of Soc. Svcs.

Opening comments by Debbie Slinkosky, School Board Member

Welcomed newcomers

Re stated goals of the Legislative Action Committee

Left at 7:50 P.M. to attend Scheduled Sachem School Board Meeting at Sagamore Middle School

Chairperson Sal Nicosia

Thanked committee members for being part of this endeavor

8:00 P.M., Members divided into the three subcommittees Federal State and Local Government for purposes of establishing goals and Sachem School District needs to function safely and financially sound.

9:00 P.M. Members of the three committees re-assembled to share results of their deliberations.

Federal Level Committee

Reported they were examining the No Child Left Behind Act, Federal Grants, IDEA, Health and Safety mandate (EAB).

Questions: What are these acts costing Sachem?

What kind of Federal support is Sachem S.D. getting to carry out the No Child Left Behind Act. Can we get to meet with Secretary of Education (How, When, Why, Where).

Plan to Meet with Supt of Business Bruce Singer before next meeting.

Federal Tax Incentives for Seniors who could earn incentives by helping in school districts with tutorial services, etc.

How can we get more of our school district voters to vote in the Budget Vote held in May?

State Level Committee

1. Getting the Facts
 - a. Yearly aid from State
 - b. Costs of unfunded mandates
 - c. What is formula of Aid
 - d. Property Tax dollars collected from Business and Residential sources
2. Plan to meet with Supt of Business Bruce Singer before next meeting.

Local Level Committee

Educating Community re Child care available

Checking into Grants, Arts in Education

Safety Issues

Sequoia Middle School Zone Speeding on Waverly Avenue, Lack of enough signs to indicate school zone

Stop and Speed Signs

Get out the Vote, have each member become active in this endeavor and to facilitate getting others to do the same. Low turnout of voters does not present an empowered community to State Officials to heed our concerns.

Chairperson's Input

Gave a report on Legislative Breakfast meeting held on Saturday, February 11th, 2006 at Longwood H.S.

Coalition of School Districts in Attendance: Center Moriches, Longwood, Patchogue-Medford, BOCES Eastern Suffolk, Southold, Middle Country, Sachem, Connetquot, Riverhead, Shoreham Wading River, Eastport-Southmanor, Three Village C.S.D. Superintendents of Schools, School Board members, and interested citizens were in attendance.

Government Officials included : Congressman Timothy Bishop of the first C.D., A representative for Steven Israel of the 2nd C.D. State Senators Kenneth LaValle, a representative of John Flanagan, a representative of Caesar Trunzo, State Assembly persons, Marc Alessi, of the First A.D., Fred Thiele of the 2nd A.D. a representative of the 3rd A.D. John Eddington husband of Patricia Eddington, Steven Engelbright of the 4th A.D. , Ginny Fields of the Fifth A.D. and Michael Fitzpatrick of the 7th A.D. The tenor the meeting was intensive. Many questions were posed to the representatives and concerns were expressed about the dire circumstances facing each School District with regarding to keeping taxes down and paying for the large increase in costs of Health Benefits and Employee Retirement funding. We need to encourage a significant voter turnout in the May Budget vote to let our representatives in Albany realize that our community ability to pay for the education of our children needs more not less funding from their State Budget.

We will be inviting State Legislators to our April Meeting. The State Legislative Committee is preparing letters of invitation at this time.

Eliot Spitzer will be letting us know three weeks before our scheduled May Committee Meeting as to when he can meet with us. We plan to invite the coalition schools to that meeting. We also have invited Mr. Suozzi to meet us since he has declared his intention to run for Governor. Mr. Faso has just declared himself as a candidate for Governor on the Republican Ticket. We plan to invite him to one of our meetings. In June, we plan to invite Congressmen Bishop and Israel to our schedule meeting.

Submitted by
Sal Nicosia
Chairperson 02-22-06