

PTA Legislative Committee Meeting Highlights

Recent Meeting Dates: September 7, 2018

Brian Paul –Legislative Committee Representative for Reuther MS

Meeting Agenda, Discussion, & Issues:

- Objective of the Legislative Committee: Identify, understand, and communicate state and federal legislature impacting students, educators, and our school district. Perform analysis of pending legislature and communicate potential impacts to PTA members. Address questions by PTA members on legislative issues.
- There is a General Election on November 6, 2018, on the ballot are candidates representing your state/district running for the following elected positions:
 - Government of Michigan (No Incumbent, Term Limit)
 - US Senator for the State of Michigan (Incumbent; Debbie Stabenow)
 - 8th District, US House of Representatives (Incumbent; Mike Bishop)
 - 13th District, State Senate (Incumbent; Marty Knollenberg)
 - 45th District, State Representative (Incumbent; Mike Webber)
- **UPDATE:** The Legislative Committee will host a candidate forum on Monday, October 15th at 7pm (Harrison Room, RSC Admin Building). Candidates for the above positions have been invited, two questions will be provided to each candidate prior to the forum for verbal response during the event. The Committee debated questions for the forum targeting a wide range of issues, from 3rd grade reading standards, teacher shortage and retention, school safety, etc. A flyer for the event will be circulated in the coming weeks.
- State MSTEP Scores were posted over the summer; 50% of students in the state are less than proficient in state defined 3rd grade reading standards, 30% of students in RCS are less than proficient in the reading standards. Working to provide a link to published state-wide MSTEPS scores.
- Michigan PTA Advocacy Day – Tuesday, Sept. 11 – Virtual on FaceBook (Like the “Michigan PTA” Facebook page for more details)

Current Legislation Impacting Teachers, Parents, & Students:

For more information pertaining to the following legislation, or if you'd like to contact your elected officials re: these bills, please email bpaul240@gmail.com.

- Over the summer, a number of bills were presented in various committees, approved at a committee level for future discussion on Senate and House floor, and signed into law. Below is a summary of those various bills.
- School Safety:
 - HB 5828, 5829, 5830, 5851, and 5852 composes a School Safety package. Passed House and sitting in Senate Education Reform Committee
 - SB 601 provides \$18.65 million in supplemental appropriations to implement school safety program. Bill passed House and sites in Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Guns:

- SB 584, 585 and 586 and SB 366 get rid of the open carry loophole that allowed people to openly carry guns in gun free zones. Bills awaiting debate and vote on House floor.
- “Red Flag Law” – HB 4706 allows law enforcement the ability to seek an expedited order from a court to confiscate someone’s guns, if there are credible reports that the person intends to harm themselves or others. Bill resides in the House Judiciary Committee
- Teacher Shortage:
 - HB 4069 – Signed into law by Governor Snyder in June 2018. This bill reduces the amount of college credits a person needs to become a substitute teacher.
 - SB 764-782 is a series of bills introduced is designed to prepare, attract and retain teachers in the State’s public schools. Introduced to Senate Education Committee.
- Funding:
 - SB 760 creates a fundraising license plate that states, “I Support Public Schools.” Introduced to Senate Transportation Committee. Funds would be given to the State Treasurer who would then put them in the School Aid Fund.

Other Legislative Topics:

- Know Your Elected Officials:
 - State:
 - Senator Marty Knollenberg (13th District)
 - Representative Mike Webber (45th District)
 - Federal:
 - Senator Debbie Stabenow
 - Senator Gary Peters
 - Congressman Mike Bishop (8th District)

Next Legislative Committee Meeting:

- October 5, 2018 – RCS Admin Bldg, Parker Conference Room (2nd Floor)