



LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

9:00AM – 12:00PM

Via WebEx

DR. GINA POTTER, CHAIR

MINUTES

I. Welcome & Introductions | 20 mins

- a. Started at 9:05AM, allowed time for everyone to join
- b. Dr. Gina Potter, Chair, Legislative Policy Committee
 - i. Gina introduced herself and the GR team with bios. Thanked everyone for serving this year on this committee, will be one of the most important years on behalf of all our students and 17,000 educational leaders. Largest committee in ACSA
- c. Dr. Edgar Zazueta, Senior Director of Policy & Governmental Relations/LPC Staff Liaison
 - i. Edgar opened up the meeting, gave a brief overview of the topics for today and activities we are doing with the LPC team. Our Legislative Platform this year is that much more important. Gina helped us revise how we meet as a team virtually and still have meaningful meetings
 - ii. ACSA has been influential in the last 8 months, and have done a lot of work to contribute to the perspective for this new Leg Platform
- d. Kristy Tchamourian, Legislative Assistant & Staff Support
- e. Legislative Advocates, Governmental Relations
 - i. Each Legislative Advocate gave brief introductions and background information on their areas of interest and working histories
- f. Region Representatives & Committee/Council Liaisons
 - i. Region and Council/Committee representatives gave their name, Region/Committee/Council they represent, day job, & number of years at ACSA

II. Legislative Policy Committee Overview | *Potter, Zazueta* | 60 mins

- a. Purpose
 - i. To identify and study areas of needed legislation affecting ACSA and public education
 - ii. Solicit sponsorship requests and sponsor bills
 - iii. To study proposed legislation and establish ACSA's position on state and federal legislation
 - iv. Assist in developing and/or updating ACSA's OneVoice Legislative Platform
 1. Developed at the annual planning meeting the first year of the 2-year legislative session
 2. Updated at the annual planning meeting the second year of the legislative session
- b. Operating Rules
 - i. Report back to your region or committee/council/task force decisions made by the Legislative Policy Committee

- ii. Respond to emails and/or participate in alerts from ACSA Governmental Relations
 - iii. Optional: Participate in your region Delegation at ACSA's Legislative Action Day
- c. Agenda and Analysis Procedures
 - i. You will receive an analysis and agenda via email one week prior to the meeting
 - ii. All materials will be stored on the shared Google Drive for LPC
 - iii. In preparation for LPC meetings, review the analyses and meeting materials, as well as solicit input from your region or committee/council/task force prior to each meeting
 - iv. Tips from veteran committee members about how best to prepare with region or committee/council/taskforce
- d. Legislative Positions
 - i. There are 14 bill positions, but only five active positions (require action by lobbyists):
 - 1. Support
 - 2. Oppose
 - 3. Support if amended
 - 4. Oppose unless amended
 - 5. Seek to amend
 - ii. Consent agenda means one vote on all issues
 - iii. A complete list and description of each bill position is located in our Google Drive
- e. Meetings & Alternates
 - i. Come to the meeting(s) prepared and ready to provide the position recommended by your region or committee/council/task force on each bill submitted for your review
 - ii. Attend all meetings. If unable to attend, you must designate an alternate
 - 1. Alternate must be a current, active member of your ACSA region or committee/council/task force
 - 2. Alternate must be prepared to discuss and provide input collected from region or committee/council/task force

III. **2020 Legislative Wrap Up & COVID Legislation | Zazueta, Advocates | 20 mins**

- a. 2020 Legislative Bill Highlights
- b. Integrated Legislative Wrap Up with "Setting the Context: 2021"

IV. **Setting the Context: 2021 | Zazueta, Advocates | 20 mins**

- a. Open ended question: What's the legislatures sentiment on distance learning/hybrid, especially with most of the state moving back to purple?
 - i. We will continue to push the state for better guidelines and more funding
 - ii. Reality: many of our students may have ~1.5 years without in-person learning
 - iii. You all have moved mountains to serve your staff and students, but still are struggling and much more work is needed
- b. ACSA's GR Team has identified some areas that may be identified as priorities in the upcoming Legislative cycle (in bold).
- c. **Teacher Workforce**

- i. *Diversifying Teacher Workforce* – Research shows that students of color improve academically and socially when they can identify with teachers who are similar to them
- ii. *Barriers to Entry* – Standardized testing is proved to be culturally biased and does not provide necessary preparation and training for quality teacher performance
- iii. *Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 - 1. Eliminate outdated teacher candidate pen and pencil tests and replace them with reliable performance assessments
 - 2. Eliminate burdensome out-of-state reciprocity prohibitions
 - 3. Ensure teacher preparation programs accredited by the CTC are embedding reading and literacy training

d. Distance Learning

- i. *Achievement Gap* – Inequities continue to be exacerbated, and the pandemic has only widened the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic achievement gaps
- ii. *Learning Loss* - Research shows students are falling months behind during the pandemic
- iii. *Digital Divide* – There are approximately 1.3 million unconnected students according to June 2020 data
- iv. *Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 - 1. Provide incentives that draw the best teachers to the neediest students and the hardest-to-staff school
 - 2. Guidance on how to diagnose students to address their learning needs
 - 3. State investment in technology and connectivity for all students

e. Reopening Schools

- i. *Facilities* – Healthy and safe educational environments are necessary in order to bring students back into the classroom
- ii. *Labor* – Intense and difficult negotiations on sensitive issues with conflicting interests
- iii. *PPE* – Adhering to the long list of safety protocols under the state’s guidance to help mitigate the spread of coronavirus
- iv. *Testing* – Uncertainty regarding the process, frequencies, and cost for schools and LEAs
- v. *Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 - 1. State investments to support the costs and processes associated with PPE, testing, and facilities safety
 - 2. Increased state assistance in addressing labor agreements where schools are otherwise deemed safe to reopen
 - 3. Wildfire recovery, including facilities modernization and construction

f. School Finance & Funding

- i. The state is headed into further difficult times and LEAs will face increased budget risks, including COVID-19 mitigation, wildfire recovery, and a lack of surety regarding economic recovery
- ii. If the federal government fails to pass a stimulus plan, California schools will have to absorb \$5.8 billion in payment deferrals
- iii. *Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 - 1. Call on the federal government to provide resources necessary for quality public education opportunities
 - 2. Urge the State Legislature and Governor Newsom to identify and work towards achieving a long-term funding solution

- 3. Support increased education funding, including development of long-term investment strategies
- iv. Federal funding was not provided by date built into budget, but looking at next year with new federal administration
- v. Need \$10bil hole to be filled, revenues appear to be on the right track
 - 1. A \$10bil hit to schools would be devastating
- vi. Mobilizing around getting an actual, true hold harmless
 - 1. Working on hold harmless related to UPP, large undercount
- vii. Policy and budget go hand-in-hand, budget will be a large focus of other conversations
- viii. From Capitol Advisors on the LAO Fiscal Outlook:
 - 1. Compared to the June Budget Act, the LAO now estimates that the 2020-21 Prop. 98 guarantee will be \$13.1 billion higher. Remarkably, this would put the 2020-21 guarantee even higher than estimated in January, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - 2. The Prop. 98 guarantee in 2019-20 is also estimated to be slightly higher than anticipated, \$1.6 billion above June estimates
 - 3. This rapid improvement in the Prop. 98 outlook is sufficient to allow the state to reverse all of the existing payment deferrals, a cost of \$12.5 billion. This would immediately relieve fiscal pressure on school districts and also reduce pressure from deferral repayment obligations on Prop. 98 funding in future years. Reversing the deferrals will require early action in January because the deferrals are set to begin in February
 - 4. In addition to reversing deferrals, there will be some additional one-time funding the state could dedicate to help districts with the costs of reopening schools and/or implementing distance learning and/or mitigating learning loss impacting many students
 - 5. On top of this good news, the state has also committed to supplemental payments to Prop. 98 (\$2.3 billion) starting in 2021-22. These funds could prevent a roller coaster effect if revenue growth does not fill anticipated budget deficits in future years

g. Mental Health & Social Emotional Learning

- i. The prevalent state-wide issue of mental health and social and emotional needs of students and staff have increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continuous wildfire trauma
- ii. *Recommendations may include, but are not limited to the following:*
 - 1. Increase coordination among schools and community providers
 - 2. Direct non-Prop. 98 funding to school districts to support access to mental health services
 - 3. Embed mental health and trauma-informed training into teacher and administrator credentialing programs

V. 2020 Legislative Planning | Potter, Zazueta, Advocates | 60 mins

- a. Legislative Priorities; Breakout sessions to discuss priorities
 - i. 2021 Legislative Platform
 - 1. First year of a new legislative cycle
 - 2. Full revision of ACSA's Legislative Platform
 - 3. Form Subcommittee for Legislative Platform
 - a. Will meet in late November or early December
 - ii. Working in breakout rooms
 - 1. Spreadsheet with prompts for this activity is located in LPC Google Drive

2. Will spend about 30 minutes in groups, then regroup for a discussion and identification of Legislative Platform Subcommittee
- iii. Legislative Platform Timeline:
 1. October: (completed) Input from Board of Directors
 2. Nov/Dec: LPC recommends legislative platform
 3. December: Review period for committees/councils
 4. February: Adoption by Leadership Assembly & ratification from Board
- b. Breakout Exercise:
 - i. Breakout session of assigned Subcommittees
 - ii. Each Subcommittee identified and reported in a [Breakout Activity: Legislative Priorities Spreadsheet](#) on the following:
 1. Top 3-5 Legislative Priorities
 2. Top 3-5 COVID Education Challenges
 3. Top 3-5 COVID Education Successes
 - iii. Gina asked CASC Student reps, from your point of view, what do students need?
 1. Assistance with adaptation to online learning
 2. Social and emotional learning and maintaining/improving mental health
 3. Grades slipping due to pace teachers are teaching, whether due to mental health or difficulty learning online
 - a. School is mimicking a regular day, but on zoom with 7am start and same amount and time for class periods
 - b. Workload is exactly the same as in person, but more difficult due to online teaching – very overwhelming, especially if you get behind as it's harder to catch up
 4. SFUSD not fully open either and cases are rising rapidly
 - a. Jason's school is a divergent experience, they went for minimum instructional time with ½ classes and shorter
 - b. Teachers compensating with homework and assignments, but no zoom fatigue since classes are shortened.
 - c. Biggest challenges: mental health and SEL – has had student suicide recently
 - d. Working on several proposals with identified authors for next year
- c. Identification of Legislative Platform Working Group
 - i. Human Resources: Maria Elena Plaza
 - ii. Curriculum & Instruction: Rauna Fox, Elliot Duchon
 - iii. Pupil Services & SPED: Sam Neustadt, Petra Martinez-Diaz
 - iv. School Finance: Tiffany Morse, Robert Adams
 - v. Equity: Leo Perez, Jason Chen
 - vi. Board: Parvin Ahmadi (Equity & Finance as well)

VI. [Wrap Up Activity & Adjourn](#)

- a. Members were asked to answer a few questions as they sign off:
 - i. What are your top 2 goals you hope LPC might achieve during COVID this year?
 - ii. Would you be interested in a 1hr January Legislative Update LPC Meeting?
 1. Region Representatives and Liaisons overwhelmingly agreed that they would be interested in a 1hr Legislative Update LPC meeting in January, following the Governor's January Budget Proposal.
 - iii. What was the most beneficial part of today's meeting?
- b. Adjourned at 12:05PM

Future Meeting Dates:

Date	Meeting Location	Time
January TBD	Legislative Update WebEx	TBD
Thursday, February 4, 2021	Legislative Update & Bill Review Meeting WebEx	1:00 PM - 4:00PM
Wednesday, March 17, 2021	Legislative Update & Bill Review Meeting WebEx	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
April 11-12, 2021	OPTIONAL Legislative Action Day TBD	TBD
Tuesday, April 20, 2020	Legislative Update & Bill Review Meeting WebEx	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tuesday, May 18, 2021	Legislative Update & Bill Review Meeting WebEx	9:00 AM - 12:00 PM