

DPO Education Caucus Meeting Sunday, December 4, 2022

Executive Team members present: Kathleen, Deb, Lisa, Mary

Chair Kathleen Jeskey called the meeting to order. Joe Yetter addressed the group about his interest in working on a statewide project aimed at informing high school students about the Democratic party and getting them involved in the political process. Yetter proposes to contact high school Civics class teachers to bring in class speakers who can talk about the “Democratic party, motivate students to engage in the party, to register and vote Democratic, and to run for office.” There was about 20 minutes of discussion ranging from the proposal is a great idea but concerns if there are enough Civics classes established in Oregon, concerns with rural schools including speakers discussing politics, and a suggestion to contact Journalism teachers who already set up politicians to discuss issues with students. Joe is looking for volunteers from the Caucus to spread the word. His contact information is Joe Yetter - 541 450-7633

Laurie Wimmer informed the group about issues expected to be addressed during the upcoming 2023 legislative session. Ed policy, the state budget (expecting a \$1B shortfall this year), makeup of the new legislature (40% will be freshmen), online meetings continuing, policy conflicts involving culture wars, and parent groups arranging for legislative days to “call the shots”. The Governor’s budget is expected to be released on February 1st - later than normal. Education-related issues include additional dedicated funding for SPED, \$10.4M for public education, equity and diversity focus, OSEA is expected to request adding additional members to the TSPC and other committees. Senator Dembrow bills include ways to attract and retain education professionals. OEA is looking at additional funding for professional development and an increase in starting pay for educators. Community college issues include pay equity. There expects to be a push for school vouchers and an accountability bill for virtual schools.

Brian Gardner spoke to the group after handing out his proposed resolution on Special Education Testing and Disability Identification. He gave the history of his proposal and shared he has gotten no support and demanded the Education Caucus support and vote for his proposal so he can send it to the Legislature for their consideration this session. Chair Jeskey tried to explain that it was too late for this session to move the proposal into bill form. Mr. Gardner became upset. He moved that the group vote. Ms. Deb Barnes asked for a point of personal privilege to explain that the Ed Caucus leadership asked Mr. Gardner to revise his original proposal and the concerns the group had remained that could lead to concerns from district officials. Ms. Jeskey asked if there was a second to Mr. Gardner’s motion to move to a vote. Mary Thamann seconded the motion. The vote was called. Those who were eligible to vote denied the motion. Mr. Gardner, who was not a member of the Caucus on our meeting date, was ineligible to vote. Meeting adjourned by Ms. Jeskey at 12:07.

Submitted by Deb Barnes