

DPO Education Caucus Agenda
Sunday, May 19, 2019
12:00 -- 1:00 PM
Prineville, OR

21 Attendees:

Louise Currin

Cheryl Fisher

Kathleen Jeskey, Chair

Charles Lee

Nancy Lewis

Heather M???

Kevin Marr

Michaela Martin

Mark McKelvey

Blythe Nordbye

Peter Nordbye

Claire Reaume

Jonathan Rudolf, DPO Staff

Betsy Salter, Secretary

Lee Schlenker

Kate Soly???

Lisa Stiller

Rex Swartzendruber

Ross Swartzendruber

Mary Thamann

Brielle Worthing

1. Welcome/Introductions (3 min.)

No introductions were made. Because we only have one hour, in our last meeting we agreed to keep introductions to Name and County.

2. **Approval of Minutes** (2 min.)

The minutes from our March 2019 meeting are posted on the [DPO Education Caucus website](#). We provide the link to the past meeting minutes in emails encouraging Education Caucus members to attend the next meeting. We discussed whether we should print copies of meeting minutes for approval at future meetings. We didn't vote on it, but it seemed like we should to ensure printed copies are at DPO Education Caucus meetings in the future to facilitate review and approval/amendment.

The March 2019 meeting minutes were approved after attendees had a chance to look at the online version.

3. **Officer Reports**

- **Caucus Bylaws-Scott Hays:** Proposed bylaws additions/changes (10 min.)

Scott Hayes could not attend. Ed Caucus members are asked to review the draft bylaws. If you did not attend the Ed Caucus meeting on 5.19.2019 and would like a copy of the draft bylaws, please email Kathleen Jeskey at education_caucus@dpo.org. We would like to finalize and approve our Caucus bylaws at the next Ed Caucus meeting which will be in conjunction with the 3rd Quarter SCC meeting on August 11, 2019. Time and place to be determined.

Because our membership exceeds 200, we anticipate modifying the proposed language in Article VIII, section 8.5. Instead of preparing a sign-in sheet with all 200+ members listed, we will modify the by-laws to reflect that we will bring the latest membership list to reorganization meetings to verify which attendees may vote in the election.

A question was raised about the language in the bylaws pertaining to whether individual members can support non-democratic partisan candidates in contested elections:

“Members in good standing are those who complete an application form, have attended and signed in to at least one regular meeting in the previous year, and refrain from supporting non-Democratic partisan candidates in contested elections.”

Chair Jeskey agreed to consult with the DPO about how strict the DPO is on this language. We do not anticipate questioning members on whether they voted for or intend to vote for a non-Democratic partisan candidate in a contested election.

4. Old Business

- **Updates on legislation:** Oregon Public Education Network, others? (5 min.)

Mary Thamann provided an update on [SB 282](#), a bill to study the student health effects of screen time in the classroom. It had a hearing on 03.27.2019, but nothing is scheduled to suggest SB 282 will be considered further.

[HB 2318](#), the “Too Young to Test” bill, and [SB 433](#) the bill to strengthen the state opt out process, according to [Diane Ravitch](#), have both effectively been “killed.”

- **Update/thanks:** Sen. Lew Frederick letter writing campaign on testing (2 min.)

[SB 456](#), the bill to delink HS graduation from passing a standardized test, will have a hearing in the Joint Committee on Student Success on May 21, 2019. An email will be sent to the Education Caucus to encourage everyone to send in testimony.

It was mentioned that there is a proposal to create Children Services Districts which would operate similar to [Social Impact Bonds](#) by directing taxes away from the General Fund.

We had an extensive discussion about the Platform and Resolution Committee’s [Resolution 2019-002](#) in support of [HB 3391](#), a bill to require

the Department of Education to coordinate with Oregon career and technical student organizations in support of organizations. We discussed whether the Education Caucus had an opinion on this resolution the State Central Committee should consider prior to voting on the resolution during their upcoming Business Meeting. Our primary concern was to prevent M98 funds from being diverted to virtual charter schools. We discussed possible language, but could not reach consensus on specific language. Due to time constraints we decided we would not make an Education Caucus statement on the resolution during the SCC meeting.

It was noted that it is now illegal for online schools to advertise on TV. A question was asked about comparing the HS graduation rate between online schools vs brick and mortar public schools. Chair Jeskey offered to share a report on the success rate of online schools.

4. New Business

- **Proposed Action goal:** Reduce the negative impact of standardized testing in our schools (5 min.)

The Chair proposed we take action to reduce the impact of standardized testing, especially in our grade schools. An effort is underway to form a legislative workgroup, that will include teachers, to identify the most appropriate assessments for our public schools.

Rep. Gorsek is interested in convening such a workgroup. Meetings have been scheduled with Rep. Doherty and Rep. Alonso-Leon to discuss this as well.

A concern was raised that ODE and Oregon school districts are considering adopting Smarter Balanced Interim and Formative assessments in addition to the SB summative assessment.

A motion was made and seconded for the Education Caucus to advocate for this legislative workgroup on assessment. The language we approved was, “The DPO Education Caucus will advocate to establish a Legislative work group, inclusive of K-12 teachers, administrators, parents and students to examine and assess the assessment tools required in schools in Oregon.”

- **Proposed Resolutions** (10 min.)
 - **High Stakes Testing:** Example from National Grange, Paul Eck
 - **Virtual Charter Schools:** Example from Polk County Dems, Ross Schwartzendruber

Due to time constraints, members were asked to read the example resolutions for future consideration by the Education Caucus. The example resolutions are available on the [DPO Education Caucus website](#).

- **Member communication between caucus meetings** (15 min.)

We discussed whether there was interest in more frequent Education Caucus communications and venues. A motion to set up a Google Group was seconded and approved. The purpose will be to facilitate an activist group to collaborate and take action in a timely manner. A Google Group will be easier to follow and track than email.

- **Caucus Day at OR State Fair** (5 min.)

Possible dates:

Sun. August 25th

Tues. August 27th

Mon. September 2nd

Education Caucus members are interested in volunteering at the State Fair but need clarification as to whether a Caucus has to commit to providing

volunteers for an entire day. Alternatively, could multiple Caucuses adopt a day and each Caucus be responsible for a shift within that day?

Good of the order

We discussed establishment of County Democratic Parties establishing local Education Caucuses. Mary mentioned that 8 counties are currently on board. Nancy mentioned that she is working on establishing a local education caucus in her county party.

It was noted that an OEA action on PERS was scheduled for 5/22/2019. The PERS proposal to require young teachers pay for current retiree benefits is unacceptable.

It was noted that the Ways & Means Committee is currently considering Department of Education funding.

We discussed the importance of local school boards having a say in how Student Success Act funds are allocated. A local school board member emphasized the importance of lowering class sizes.

We adjourned at 1:02 PM