

DPO Education Caucus
4th Quarter Meeting
Sunday, November 19, 2017
Floyd Light Middle School, Portland

Introduction

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Zastrow at 10:10am. There were over 25 in attendance. Paul asked everyone to introduce themselves and give a reason for their interest in the Education Caucus.

The minutes from the 3rd Quarter meeting had been sent to the membership and were approved.

Ballot Measure 101 – Implications for Education

Paul announced that a special election would be held in January regarding Ballot Measure 101 and explained the importance of a **YES VOTE** which would support the Oregon Legislature's approval to uphold certain taxes on healthcare and healthcare insurance to provide funding for Medicaid expansion. If Measure 101 fails, the State would have a shortfall of 4.5 million dollars.

Oregon Legislature's Short Session – February 5 – March 9

Paul explained that we can expect some legislative changes due to at least four legislators resigning to assume other jobs. He announced that legislators will be allowed to submit only two bills and these will be assigned to committees.

Social Impact Bonds

Mary Thamann and Deb Mayer led the discussion informing the group about OPEN (Oregon Public Education Network), which is striving to make a positive impact on Public Education by forming coalitions among various groups throughout the Democratic Party. A chief concern is the privatization scheme involving "Social Impact Bonds." Clatsop County's early childhood educational program (Head Start) is currently being targeted. Deb also explained the complexity of this scheme stating that it is a "brainchild" of Goldman-Sachs. Andy Davis of Clatsop County explained that the program is presently being reviewed by the Commissioners and there is hope to stop it there. Deb mentioned that information regarding Social Impact Bonds will be on the Parents Across America website (paaoregon.org)

Oregon's Educational Platform

Peter Nordbye, Chair of the Clackamas County Democrats, explained that the Platform Educational Sub-Committee will be submitting its first draft of the state's Educational Platform to the DPO at the end of January. He stressed the need for K-12 Legislative Action Items (LAI's) being a focus when voting at the Platform Convention. In the past, post-secondary LAI's have taken precedence.

Mary Thamann commented that Education rarely makes it to the top of DPO's LAI's, and we are striving to put education at "front and center" this time around--the priorities being Privatization, and QEM funding. She stated that the Education Platform from Multnomah County is on the Parents Across America website (paaoregon.org) and encouraged everyone to review it.

The meeting adjourned just before 11am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Marlia-Stein, Secretary
DPO Education Caucus