

**DPO Education Caucus
Minutes
August 12, 2018
Lane Community College**

Chair, Paul Zastrow opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and introduced two representatives from “March for Our Lives PDX” and hoped that educators would inform their students about the upcoming Oregon Youth Co-op Summit on October 6th in Portland; location to be determined. The intent is to bridge the gap between rural and urban students working to end gun violence. For more information, contact oycsummit@gmail.com.

Vice-Chair, Betsy Salter passed around a handout of proposed action items:

The first item discussed ODE’s decision to continue SBAC testing and to require that test scores be included in college applications, thus encouraging students who have opted out of this test in the past to rethink their decision. <https://www.opb.org/news/article/oregon-high-school-state-tests/>

The second encouraged members to attend the three remaining Joint Committee on Student Success Public Hearings:

September 13, 7pm Ridgeview High School Auditorium, Redmond

September 27, 7pm President James Madison High School Auditorium, Portland

October 10, 7pm Marshfield High School Auditorium, Coos Bay

Senator Lew Frederick noted that members should contact legislators, administrators and school board officials and discuss the negative impacts the SBAC is having on our children. Many of them are only hearing success stories. One concerned member brought up the discriminating factor of standardized testing and commented that it has been going on since the 80’s.

The third action item asked for a proposed resolution rejecting the “Democrats for Education Reform” policy agenda of protecting charter schools and low taxes and to demand they cease calling themselves Democrats. DFER claims that their caucuses are “Progressive,” but some of the organizations’ most prominent members are billionaires who donate to both parties, depending on which candidate is likeliest to protect its agenda. Out-of-state money is influencing our school board elections. Recently, the Colorado Democratic Party overwhelmingly rejected the DFER agenda at their state assembly, and we want to present a resolution to our own State Democratic Party.

Larry Lewin, a founding member of the Community Alliance for Public Education (CAPE), Mary Thamann from the Oregon Public Education Network (OPEN), and Deb Mayer representing Parents Across America Oregon (PAAO) addressed the members regarding the three organizations working together and visiting legislators to urge their support for public education. The combined group is specifically working on three issues:

1. "Too Young to Test" (Kindergarten – 2nd grade)
2. Oregon's Essential Skills Graduation Requirements
3. Limiting Screen Time for our Students

They have been successful in reaching out to Senator Mark Haas and Representative John Lively and have several upcoming meetings scheduled with other legislators. They also stressed that their work is important as the public does not realize the attacks that are taking place on public education. Regarding the issue of "Too Young to Test", Larry commented that it is our ethical duty to protect our children. As far as "Limiting Screentime," there has been a big push for the past few years to deliver curriculum using computer software, and we need to be aware that "data mining," collecting information about our children when they are online, is a huge concern, as is the mental health of our children. There are numerous studies to support this.

Mary Thamann alerted the membership about Clatsop County's pilot program, "Pay for Success," http://www.dailyastorian.com/Local_News/20180706/north-coast-preschool-advocates-prepare-for-pilot-study , also known as "Social Impact Bonds" which will allow private investors to help pay for preschool, something we already have through Head Start.

"Digital Promise" and "Future Ready Schools" were also noted as concerns.

Ross Swartzendruber warned about research being done to identify markers for children's IQ. He spoke of "eugenics" and the need for "Algorithm Governance." Ross mentioned several hearings involving public education that were taking place and urged our participation.

A motion was made regarding the need for a resolution concerning school security cooperating with ICE. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded to approve the following resolution: "No police or security organization associated with schools should cooperate with ICE." The motion passed with only one in opposition. Paul said that he would present this resolution to the SCC delegation.

The meeting adjourned promptly at 11:00 a.m.