

Democratic Party of Oregon Education Caucus

Minutes

Sunday, December 2, 2018

In Attendance

Paul Zastrow, Chair, Betsy Salter, Vice-Chair, Liz Marlia-Stein, Secretary, Pat Eck, Jan Eck, Mary Thamann, Scott Hays, Kathleen Jeskey, Carol Greenough, Tricia Snyder, Peter Nordbye, Alan Holland, Ross Swartzendruber, Bill Bordeaux, Lisa Stiller, Don St. Clair, Andy Davis, Mariah Dula, Scott Mills, Louise Currin, Fiora Starchildwolf, Venus Barnes, Ami Fox, Mary Nikas and Sean Nikas.

Paul opened the meeting with introductions from all in attendance.

Discussion on Resolution for the DPO State Central Committee to condemn the undermining of Public Education under Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos.

- Add language to ensure Oregon's QEM is funded.
- Testing also affects funding.
- Title 9 should be addressed.

After revisions are made, Paul will present the resolution to the SCC. It was moved, seconded and approved to move the Resolution forward.

Reports

OPEN (Oregon Public Education Network) members distributed a handout regarding the policy proposals they submitted to the Joint Interim Committee on Student Success. [Comments submitted by the Oregon Public Education Network to the JCSS dated 11/6/2018](#)
They are specifically focusing on the following topics:

- Too Young to Test [Students Read and Able to Learn Work Group Policy Recommendations](#)
- Eliminating the Essentials Skills Requirement for Graduation [College and Career Ready Work Group Policy Recommendations](#)
- Limiting Screen Time in the Classroom [High Quality Classrooms Work Group Policy Recommendations](#)

Several legislators have agreed to sponsor bills on these topics, and OPEN will attend upcoming legislative meetings and devise a strategy to get people lined up to testify. Visit <https://www.orpublicednetwork.org/> for more information.

Comments

- Upcoming Legislative Days: December 12, 13, 14.
- Regarding the “Essentials Skills Requirement,” Kathleen reported that Senator Mark Hass’s bill would eliminate exit exams as well as modified and extended diplomas. She noted that California’s standardized testing is no longer tied to graduation and we should do the same. As a former ELL teacher, she mentioned that the testing is unfair to English Language Learners.
- Tricia conveyed that we need to reinvest in our library programs, that library standards are not being taught, and the ODE is allowing districts to minimize staffing which has impacted library programs. She then noted that unless Oregon’s QEM (Quality Education Model) is met, we will not have fully-funded programs.
- QEM should be a “baseline.” It does not provide resources for essential services.
- As per Article 2 of our 2018 Democratic Platform, the QEM must remain our focus.
- Businesses are willing to help fund the QEM.
- Schools continue to be graded by test scores and behavior issues are now a problem.
- Longitudinal Data/Privacy issues are finally becoming exposed.
- Social Impact Bonds are a real problem as outside investors such as Goldman Sachs try to leverage private investment to support social programs in underserved communities. This is currently happening in Clatsop County.
<https://www.goldmansachs.com/insights/pages/social-impact-bonds.html>

Our next SCC Education Caucus Meeting

Sunday, March 17th, Central High School, 1530 Monmouth St, Independence, OR 97351 <https://dpo.org/events/2019-03-16/1st-quarter-2019-reorganization-and-state-central-committee-meeting>

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz Marlia-Stein, Secretary