

Minutes
DPO Education Caucus
Sunday, March 7, 2021

1. Welcome/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 by Kathleen Jeskey

Present: Kathleen Jeskey, Scott Hays, Lisa Stiller, Louise Currin, Greg Gardner, Mary Thamann, Derek Dunham, Liz Marlia-Stein, Carol Greenough, Ross Swartzendruber, Deborah Gordon, Deb Barnes, Elaine Harris, Laurie Wimmer, Jennifer Cassidy, Justin Brice, Maureen Barnhart, Tanya Shively, Matt Keating, Danni/y Rosen, Rex Swartzendruber, Gregg Heacock, Heather Bishop, Polly Kreisberg, Carol Christ, Rosa Colquitt, Lynn Rosen, Sami Al-Abdrabbuh, Bill Bordeaux

2. Elections

- Appoint acting Chair : Maureen Barnhart
- Open for nominations from the floor

The following were elected by acclamation, as there were no other nominations:

Kathleen Jeskey, Chair

Scott Hays, Vice Chair

Deb Barnes, Communications Secretary

Lisa Stiller, Recording Secretary

Mary Thamann, Treasurer

SCC Delegate, Sami Al-Abdrabduh

Elected by vote:

SCC Alternate: Louise Currin

3. Old Business

• **Education Bills this session**

The following bills were specifically discussed. There are many more and a document with links to some of those can be found on our [Caucus page](#).

HB 2631: Adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying, and a notification system for school districts when reports of these occur.

SB 744: which directs the ODE to review the state's requirements for a HS diploma

HB 3130: effort to address moves by school districts to limit PERS payment obligations by contracting out sub services to private companies, which results in subs losing PERS payments.

SB 683: requires school districts to provide instruction on the racist history of Oregon and the US

HB2001: requiring school districts making reductions in education staff positions to retain teachers with less seniority if the teacher has more merit and if the retention of the teacher is necessary to necessary to maintain the district's diversity ratio. While all agreed with the goal of attracting/re taining a diverse teaching force, concerns were expressed that this bill might

result in weakening unions and age discrimination. Alternate solutions to hiring and retention of diverse teaching force were suggested such as not cutting funds and thus avoiding layoffs (already understaffed in our public schools) serious mentoring programs with dedicated funding, increasing diversity in administration, and improved working conditions.

SB 580: includes class size and caseloads as mandatory collective bargaining subjects.

SB 702: Establishing a task force on social studies standards, to review and suggest changes

SB 26: Requiring grades k-12 to provide a half semester or semester of civics education

SB 552: Media literacy

Other comments from group:

Concern about increase in fees by TSPC for licensing

Would like to see legislation pushing science education

Interested in looking at restructuring curriculum standards

4. New Business

- **DPLC Charter Schools Resolution**

Resolution out of Lane County was briefly discussed. That resolution can also be found on our [Caucus page](#).

- **Possible quick informal communication vehicle**

A private Facebook group has been created titled “DPO Education Caucus Organizing” group for members of our Caucus to quickly share out actions needed, especially on legislation during legislative session. You may ask to join that page. At this time, we are striving to make that a page for Caucus members only.

Meeting adjourned 1:21