Trust Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

4/2/2019

Attending: Nancy Kennedy, Carolyn White, Sarah Thomas, Steve Davis, Lark Reynolds, Tyler Slack, Jay Blain, Susan Edwards, Jennifer Mayer-Glenn, Scott Jones, Ben Rasmussen, Paula Plant, Natalie Gordon, Karen Rupp

Excused: Cade Douglas, Jason Theler, Liz Mumford

1. Nancy Kennedy welcomed members of TAC.
2. Motion to approve the agenda by Carolyn White and seconded by Steve Davis – unanimous.

Motion to approve the January and February TAC minutes by Tyler Slack and seconded by Susan Edwards – unanimous.

Karen Rupp informed TAC that Liz Mumford was selected to serve as an at-large member, and Cade Douglas, Carolyn White, and Steve Davis were reappointed. Jason Theler who represents the Elementary Principals has been hired by Alpine District. The appointment of a replacement will be advertised, and the State Board will make the selection to complete Jason’s term of office. Lark Reynolds who is a business administrator was selected by the State Board to fill the remainder of Derek Anderson’s term. He has changed jobs. Tyler Slack’s name was forwarded to the State Board to be approved in their April meeting.

1. Legislative Update

Senator Milner’s Teacher Student Success Act (TSSA) passed in the legislative session. Funds for this program will be a flow through from the State Board of Education to districts when they provide a framework to USBE. The money will come in 1/12 increments. Once the state receives the framework, it is the responsibility of the districts and schools to determine how to implement the plan. A framework must be submitted by November 1stto receive funds in FY2020. Paula suggested that charter schools may want to create a template for the framework. The proposed board rule is on the USBE website. Senator Millner cautioned that she would like the Board Rule to be simple. It requires School Community Councils to be consulted in creating the plan.

Representative Stratton’s School Safety Funding passed. It requires a school community council or charter trust land council to develop and incorporate certain safety principles, including coordination with administrators. Representative Stratton also sponsored and requested $200,000 to fund NetSmartz. The funds will allow all schools to be served.

Jay Blain informed the group that education received a 4% increase in the WPU. TSSA was funded at $98.5 million, $16 million this year will become $27 million ongoing for school mental health in matching grants. $10 million was backed out as one-time money. School LAND Trust program was funded at $82.6 million. TH Bell funding will become a scholarship not a loan as in the past. There will be an emphasis on first time college attendees and diversity. Senator Reibe requested $500,000 for first time teachers in who teach in high need schools with smaller class sizes. TSSP teacher salary supplement program will increase the number of people in math, science, computer science, and special education. The National Board Certification Teacher stipend was increased TO $1,000 and to $2,000 if you teach in a Title 1 school. HB120 provided $700,000 for safety coordinating panel at USBE. The issue of tax reform was not resolved, and a task force will be created.

Paula Plant informed the committee that Justin Atwater was hired as advocate director. She will invite him to either the May or June meeting to meet members of TAC. The introduction to TAC members will provide the opportunity for TAC members to introduce him to the organizations TAC members represent. Tyler suggested that Justin be invited to attend the TAC meetings. Carolyn White expressed that it would be well if he would reach out to the Association of Governments throughout the state. Paula stated they are still determining scope, purpose, and direction of the new office. Karen reported that Paula has been a calming influence during this transition period. Susan Edwards commented that during the legislative session Paula was a model of decorum and professionalism. SITLA Nominating Committee is moving forward and will be interviewing prospective board members on April 17th and will forward names to the Governor for consideration to serve on the SITLA Board of Trustees. In the past, the School Children’s Trust section has taken point on the SITFO Nominating Committee. Paula stated that she has met with Justin to turn this over to the Advocacy Office. She will be available to answer any questions.

Action Items

Proposed State Board Policy for TAC – Ben Rasmussen, USBE, explained that the resolution the State Board passed on TAC is now going to be a policy. Ben went over the changes. A question was raised about TAC taking votes on legislation. Ben reminded the group that TAC is a recommending body to the Board and a member should never speak for TAC at the legislature. Scott Jones stated that he is sure the board would value TAC’s position or opinion on school trust land or community council bills and issues.

Motion to approve the State Board Policy on TAC. Motion made by Sarah Thomas and seconded by Carolyn White. Vote was unanimous.

R277-477 Distribution of Funds from the Trust Distribution Account and Administration of the School LAND Trust Program.

Paula and Ben discussed the changes to the board rule. Susan Edwards stated a correction needed to be made on (5)(a) to add a comma after training and delete the word “and”. Paula will write a draft guidance document implementing school safety principals and send to members of TAC to be considered at the next meeting.

R277-491 School Community Councils.

Paula clarified that this does not apply to Charter schools. Susan expressed a concern that this would not allow principals to have flexibility in the number of parents who can serve on a trust land committee. Jenny stated it is difficult to get minority willing to serve because they didn’t want to go through the election process. Carolyn stated when an election takes place people tend to take it more seriously. It was also mentioned that there is a concern if an election is not held that some people who have an agenda could attempt to promote their agenda instead of representing interests of those who elected them. When any interested parent is allowed to serve, the teacher and parent ratio could become more dominate towards parents. If the council becomes so large, it is difficult to have a quorum present in order to move the business forward. After some discussion, the group agreed to leave the election language as presented with a notation to the Board that more restrictive elections practices can be an additional hurdle to parent involvement of underrepresented populations.

Ben Rasmussen will rewrite lines 130-134 dealing with the discussion between councils, school and district administrators to restate the law.

Jay Blain moved, and Tyler Slack seconded to recommend R277-477. Vote was unanimous.

Lark Reynolds moved and Steve Davis seconded to recommend R-277-491 with the replacement of lines 130-134. Vote was unanimous.

Next meet will be May 13, 2019 – 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Agenda items not addressed today will be added to the May meeting agenda for consideration.

Meeting adjourned.