



Northwest Suburban Teachers Union

Local 1211



Legislative Director Report: Democratic Party

August/September 2015
Bobby Walser

Wednesday, August 5

Went to Springfield:

1. Spoke with Cynthia Lund, Dave Cumerford, and Bryen Johnson of the IFT.
 - Congress is holding meetings to discuss issues impacting the States; Governor is not sending anyone from Illinois to the meetings.
 - Representative Crespo is sponsoring a bill that would ease the requirements on Superintendents.
 - This is happening in light of U46 hiring a Superintendent who has not finished his certification requirements.
 - IFT is strongly opposed to this bill.
2. Visited the Stratford building to speak with House Representatives.
 - Most were in committee or on vacation.
 - Visited the offices of: Crespo, Mussman, Chapa LaVia, Ford, Moeller, Morrison, Moylan, Harris, Fortner, Berrios, Mcauliff, Nekritz, McSweeney, and Franks.
 - Spoke to their office administrators thanking the representatives for standing strong against cuts that would affect students, schools, and teachers.
3. Attended an Education Committee meeting chaired by Representative Crespo.
 - The committee was making changes requiring all students to take a Civics class in high school.
 - Currently 85% of all schools require Civics to graduate.
 - Changes were made that the bill would take effect for all incoming freshmen entering high school in the 2016-2017 school year.
 - The changes passes 13-3.
4. Visited the offices (in the Capital Building) of Senators: Noland, Kotowski, Tom Cullerton, John Cullerton, Murphy, Biss, Fuggy, Link, Steans, and Mulroe.
5. Spoke with Senator Linda Holmes about her opposition to the attacks the governor continues to make on the middle class and the working poor. Such as, proposed cuts on child care assistance to anyone making more than \$12,000 per year. This would in the long run put more people on welfare as childcare would cost more than many people make working jobs making less than \$12.00 per hour.
6. Visited the offices of Secretary of State White, Comptroller, Treasurer Frierichs, and Representative Lange.
7. After committees adjourned I spoke with representative Anna Moeller, Fred Crespo, and Tom Morrison.

Monday, August 10

1. Attended a fundraiser for Hanover Township Committeeman Steve Caremelli who is running for Senator Noland Seat in the 22nd District which was held at Ti Amo Restaurant in Hoffman Estates. Also in attendance were Representative Crespo and other area democrats. Sponsored by Hanover Township Democrats.
2. Candidates from Cook County were introduced from judges, to mayors, to state representative.

Thursday, August 20

1. Spoke with CTE committee member Ken Wolin about a draft resolution he is be present at the 2016 AFT Convention. Ken has for us to comments and suggestions to Ken Wolin at kjw410@comcast.net
2. Additionally, a legislative summary was shared at the meeting. This summary has been slightly updated from the document presented at the meeting.
3. Visited Lake County Career and Technical Center and discussed Career Pathway endorsement, and College to Career committees.

Saturday, August 29

1. Attended a Meeting of Hanover Township Democrats. Kick off to inform members of how and why to get signatures for candidates in the area. Also a recap of summer activities and the Township's needs:
 - How many signatures are needed to be placed on the ballot.
 - Several polling judges are needed for the Democratic Party.
 - May polling places that do not have enough democratic polling judges are taking members of the GOP to fill the spaces.
 - To be a judge it pays \$175 for the day and for an equipment manager it pays \$325 for the day.
 - This does require training.

Sunday, August 30

1. Attended a fundraiser for Senator Dan Kotowski. Spoke with Christina Castro who is running to fill Michael Noland's seat. Christina is an employee of Elgin Community College and has worked closely with Senator Noland.
2. Spoke with Bob Piekert of DuPage Democrats and members of the NEA, Schaumburg Democrats, Local 571 and TRS attended.

Monday, August 31

1. Met with Nancy Rottering, candidate for 10th US congressional district.
2. Long history of working with labor. She has quickly settle contracts with the approval of the labor in her village. She is from a union family and has strong ties to labor.

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

1. Attended a fund raiser for Christina Castro with John Braglia, and Amy Spizzirri in Elgin.
2. Christina is running for the 22nd District Senate Seat being vacated by State Senator Michael Noland.
3. Spoke with Bob Piekert of Dupage Democrats, Senator Michael Noland, and Ed Hansen of the Elgin Firefighters' union regarding tax caps, and budget cuts in Springfield that impact education.

Monday, September 7 (Labor Day)

1. Spoke with Steve Caramelli and Representative Crepo to discuss assistance with issues (i.e., SB 1229) that are facing labor Unions in Illinois.

Saturday, September 12

1. Discussion with Cynthia Reisman of IFT about participating in an Illinois Federation of Teachers committee to discuss House Resolution 477.
 - The resolution covers:
 - Competency-based High School Graduation Requirements,
 - Scaling of 12th Grade Developmental Education Models,
 - Career Pathway Endorsements on High School Diplomas
 - Education & Career Development and Planning.

2. Meetings for the committee will be held October 22, December 8, and January 19.

- **Statewide advisory committee on competency-based high school graduation requirements**
This committee will meet three times prior to February 2016 and will deliver recommendations for a pilot program enabling high school graduation based on competency attainment, rather than seat time. The committee's membership includes representatives from state agencies, secondary education, postsecondary education, and other stakeholders.
- **Career Pathway Endorsements**
This committee will also meet three times prior to February 2016 and will deliver recommendations for the statewide implementation of a system for awarding career pathway endorsements on high school diplomas, along with related policies and supports. The committee's membership includes representatives from state agencies, secondary education, postsecondary education, employer-related organizations, and other stakeholders.
- **Scaling of 12th grade developmental education models**
This committee will meet three times prior to February 2016 and deliver recommendations for the statewide scaling of programs co-developed by community colleges and their feeder high schools that provide developmental education to 12th grade students not prepared for college-level instruction. The committee's membership includes representatives from state agencies, secondary education, postsecondary education, and other stakeholders.

Saturday, September 19

1. Spoke with Steve Caramelli and Tommie Hendrix of Hanover Township Democrats.
2. Steve Caramelli is about to announce his candidacy for Senator Noland's Senate seat. He is a state trooper who has worked hand in hand with labor.
3. He has been serving as campaign manager for Fred Crespo.

Sunday, September 21

Sent invitations to State Representatives and Senators to meet and discuss legislation on my up and coming trip to Springfield. This is currently scheduled for October 6 & 7.

Tuesday, September 23,

Attended a fundraiser for State Representative Fred Crespo of Hoffman Estates and Anna Moeller of Elgin.

In Unity,
Bobby Walser
Local 1211 Legislative Director
Northwest Suburban Teachers' union
Local 1211, IFT-AFT, AFL-CIO