

Legislative Director Report: North Cook County/Lake County Gerri Songer – May 2019

Tuesday April 9, 2019

Attended *College of Lake County Committee of the Whole* meeting in Grayslake.

Monday April 22, 2019

Attended presentation in Grayslake on *School Finance by Ralph Martire*, Executive Director of the bipartisan Center for Tax and Budget Accountability (CTBA). Martire discussed the structural deficit in the State's taxing policy leading up to the current \$134B unfunded liability of our State pensions. He also discussed the projected shortfall in school funding under the Evidence-Based School Funding model.

Wednesday-Thursday May 1-2, 2019

Attended *Springfield Lobby Days*. Met at the IFT office for a briefing on current legislative issues then visited House and Senate offices to invite legislators to the IFT Legislative Dinner. Attended the dinner and spoke with legislators including [Rep. Joyce Mason](#), [Rep. Mark Walker](#), [Sen. Ann Gillespie](#), and [Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs](#).

Sunday May 4, 2019

Attended an *Environmental Town Hall* in Grayslake. Spoke with [Rep. Sam Yingling](#).

I'm working on the following Resolutions for the upcoming IFT convention (*October 18-20, 2019*):

RESOLUTION #1 – *Ensuring the Public's Right to Know and Prepare*

This resolution calls for the inclusion of school personnel in pre-incident planning, preparedness, training, exercises and implementation of an incident management system specific to those involving hazardous materials including petroleum oil and HHFTs at schools where children are present who could be negatively impacted.

If passed by the IFT, both [Rep. Joyce Morgan](#) and [Rep. Sam Yingling](#) have agreed to support and/or sponsor legislation for this resolution.

RESOLUTION #2 – *Don't Outsource Driver Education* calls on the Governor and legislature to repeal legislation allowing school districts to outsource driver education programs to for-profit companies.

RESOLUTION #3 – *Repeal PERA* calls on legislators to sponsor and support legislation mandating the implementation of an objective teacher evaluation system with supporting

research verifying inter-rater reliability and validity that uses evaluation criteria based directly on teacher behavior.

RESOLUTION #4 – *Single Scores Cheat Students* calls on legislators to sponsor and support legislation mandating the implementation of a comprehensive approach to assessing student potential *such as* the utilization of portfolio assessment, including GPA, teacher recommendation, student work samples, and etc.