

January & February - Continual monitoring of various legislators' social media accounts.

Thursday, January 27 - Along with Steve Elza, I attended the PAC meeting to endorse a candidate for the newly drawn 3rd U.S. Congressional District. There were about 15 attending from a variety of area Locals.

The two leading candidates are 4th District Illinois Representative, Delia Ramirez, and 36th Ward Alderman, Gil Villegas. We asked a number of important questions on their stance on a variety of education issues. My standard question is about their endorsements and their organization. Upon my recommendation, I moved that we endorse Representative Ramirez, and it was adopted unanimously. The final

endorsement has to be made by the IFT Executive Committee.

Delia has proven to be a strong ally of education in her four years in the Illinois General Assembly. The same can not be said for Alderman Villegas. Delia spoke directly to those attending with since answers and examples from legislation she has supported that align with our goals. Alderman Villegas was often reading from prepared notes and had difficulty finding common ground with us.

As a follow-up, I called Delia on Monday to see if she had heard from the IFT. Our relationship is such that she answered her phone, said "good morning, Kevin" and informed me that she had just received word of the IFT endorsement. While I will miss her as an important member of the

Illinois House of Representatives, she will be an incredible asset in Congress.

Tuesday, February 8 - Legislative Directors Meeting

With the addition of Kim Miklusak from Buffalo Grove H.S to the Local, the Legislative Directors and Local President, Steve Elza, met to discuss getting Kim more involved in the political area of the Local.

Saturday, February 12 - Petition Drive
John Cusick, IFT Legislative Director, and I went door-to-door canvassing, getting Petition signatures for various candidates that have close ties to IFT/CTU - primarily Illinois State Senator, Rob Martwick of the 10th District and Illinois State Representative Lindsey LaPointe, 19th District.