

March Legislative Director's Report

Feb. 20 – Called Senators Gillespie and Castro and Representative Crespo to inquire about their attendance at our legislative breakfast

Feb. 21 – Had a phone conversation with Chelsea Laliberte-Barnes regarding a potential social worker dual credit course or career pathway at our schools. She cited a severe lack of social workers and counselors as the need for this type of program. She also mentioned she had just been endorsed by Local 150.

Feb. 22 – Heard back from Senator Gillespie that she would be at the legislative breakfast. Spoke with Jack Lockhart, Senator Gillespie's Chief of Staff. He again asked for our support on the TIF bill, and suggested we ask members to send witness slips and email or call their legislators

Feb. 23 – Communicated with Dave Comerford regarding Senator Gillespie's TIF bill. He advised we reach out to Republican senators and representatives in our area to let them know of our support for the bill.

Feb. 25 – Called Dave Comerford to discuss approaching Republican senators and reps regarding Senator Gillespie's TIF bill. He informed me that the mayors' lobbyists put on a full court press against the bill, one of the cosponsors took their name off the bill, and it won't be coming out of committee.

Feb. 28 - Spoke with Dave Comerford regarding SB 4179 and SB 4180 proposed by several Republican Senators including Don Dewitte. SB 4179 would require schools to publicly post on the district's website, at least twice a year, all learning materials and activities used for student instruction, as well as the policies and procedures for review and approval of the materials and activities. SB 4180 would add five elected positions to the ISBE. Dave said those bills were dead and didn't make the deadline to pass out of committee. He called them PR bills.

March 4 – Talked with Dave Comerford regarding HB 5060 and SB 3983 that would reduce tenure to 3 years from 4. HB 5060 didn't make it out of committee. SB 3983 will not be voted on this session, but lawmakers and education stakeholders are going to work on it to try and hammer out an agreement. Management and education reformers were working against it.

March 5 – Attended fundraiser for Mary Beth Canty, running for State Representative in the 54th district. Her state senator is Ann Gillespie. Had time to speak with Senator Gillespie, Representative Mark Walker, Mary Beth Canty, Maria Galo, who's running for Democratic Committeeperson for Palatine Township, and Daniel Pogorzelski, who's currently on staff for Michael Frerichs and is running for commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.