

## **2015-2016 Mid-Year Report FSBA Advocacy Subcommittee**

**Chair:** Jane Goodwin  
**Vice Chair:** Christine Moore

**Members:**

Jane Crawford	Linda Kobert
Erika Donalds	Pam LaRiviere
Rene Flowers	Tina McSoley
Kathleen Gordon	Shirley Owens
Pam Gould	Susan Roberts
April Griffin	Nora Rupert
Patty Hightower	

**Dates of meetings:**

September 23, 2015 – Discuss Subcommittee’s Plan of Work, Conference Sessions  
October 29, 2015 – Discuss & Plan Joint Conference Breakout Sessions  
November 13, 2015 – Continued discussion of Joint Conference Breakout Sessions

**Main actions taken/accomplishments to date:**

The Advocacy Subcommittee met in September via GoToMeeting to review the Subcommittee’s Plan of Work, to begin planning of breakout sessions to be offered during the Annual Joint Conference in December, and to discuss how the Subcommittee can assist board members in their advocacy efforts, particularly with regard to promoting FSBA as the “voice of education in Florida” and in restoring public confidence in Florida’s public schools.

The Subcommittee met in October via GoToMeeting to continue planning for the breakout sessions to be offered at the Annual Joint Conference. Topics to be covered during the breakout sessions were identified and several Subcommittee members volunteered to develop handouts and serve as presents during the sessions. The breakout sessions will focus on providing ideas and information about the groundwork that can and should be laid throughout the year to ensure that our legislators and other community partners will make informed decisions when they consider and vote on education related legislation and budgets. In addition, the Subcommittee also discussed FSBA’s new Resource Room that has been launched on the FSBA website. It was suggested that the Advocacy Subcommittee work with the Ad Hoc Public Education Issues Committee to help “flesh out” and add to the topics available in the Resource Room.

In November, those Subcommittee members that had agreed to work on the Joint Conference Breakout Session met via conference call to further refine plans for the breakout sessions.

During the Legislative Committee meeting held during this Joint Conference, the FSBA Legislative Committee, Subcommittees, and Ad Hoc Public Education Issues Committee discussed resources that are currently available on the FSBA website and what materials should be added or reorganized. Members were recruited to assist in updating and/or developing materials.

In other activities thus far this year, the Subcommittee was well represented in various FSBA Strategic Planning meetings to offer advice on elements of the Strategic Plan that relate to advocacy. In addition, the Subcommittee has worked to coordinate with the Ad Hoc Public Education Issues Committee in developing FSBA's Resource Room.

**Recommendations for upcoming activities:**

1. Conduct a survey of the FSBA membership designed to gauge the current level of engagement in district advocacy efforts, identify best/successful practices, and identify needs for support from FSBA members and staff.
2. Develop a means for collecting information about board members, including information about any special skills, interests, or resources that members may bring to their work on any particular FSBA committee. This might be accomplished by requesting such information on the FSBA Committee Sign-Up form and/or Legislative Committee selection form.