

FSBA Legislative Committee Report 2017-2018 Mid-Year Report

Chair: Jane Goodwin
Vice Chair: Mike Pressley
Members: (See Member List at <http://fsba.org/legislative-committee/>)

Dates of meetings and activities:

July 2017 – Begin FSBA Platform development process
August 31, 2017 – Committee Discussion of Plan of Work (via GoToMeeting)
September 22, 2017 – FSBA Platform Committee Meeting (Via GoToMeeting)
October 6, 2017 – Question & Answer Session on Proposed FSBA Platform(s) (Via GoToMeeting)
October 26, 2017 – FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platform Adoption Meeting
November 17, 2017 – Legislative Session Interim Committee Meetings Update (Via GoToMeeting)

Main actions taken/accomplishments to date:

In July, the Legislative Committee has begun the process for developing the FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platforms. The Committee held an online Q&A session in early October to allow FSBA members to call in to ask questions about the Proposed Platforms and will be meeting October 26 to debate and adopt the Final 2018 Platforms. The platform development time-line and the Proposed FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platforms are attached to the meeting agenda.

In August, 22 Committee members met to review the work accomplished in 2016-2017 and to discuss various issues and procedural plans. The Subcommittee discussed the suggestion that the Legislative Committee membership term of service be extended to 2 years. This would allow the Committee to begin working earlier and take better advantage of experience earned from one legislative session to the next. Staff will research whether this change would require a policy and/or bylaws amendment. On a related note, the committee also reviewed elements of the FSBA Strategic Plan and discussed the implications of converting the Advocacy Subcommittee into a permanent Standing Committee.

In an effort to continue to improve visibility and advocacy in Tallahassee during the Session and the Interim Committee meetings, the Committee established a tentative schedule to continue the practice of regular online meetings during the Legislative Session. The Committee plans to meet every Friday at 9:00 a.m., beginning with the weeks of Interim Committee meetings and continuing during each week of the Legislative Session. The Committee also chose to continue, and hopefully expand, the practice of having Committee members in Tallahassee for all relevant weeks of the Interim and regular Session. Staff will prepare a Doodle Survey as a sign-up sheet to be circulated to Committee members. In addition, Staff was directed to create a form to allow Committee members to disclose areas of special interest and/or expertise and any special relationships with legislators and other state leaders.

The Committee also held an informal discussion of the proposed litigation challenging HB 7069, the potential challenge of the District Cost Differential, the work of the Constitution Revision Commission, and various bills of interest that have been filed.

With some adjustments following Hurricane Irma, the Committee proceeded with the development of the FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platforms. District participation in the platform process was well above average, both in terms of the number of proposals submitted (114 – not counting duplicate/similar proposals submitted by more than one district) and the number of districts making submissions (23). In September, the Platform Committee met to review the proposals that had been submitted to determine if each proposal:

- Addressed an issue of statewide concern that has an actual or potential impact on all sixty-seven school districts;
- Was consistent with FSBA's vision, mission, and strategic directions; and
- Should be forwarded to the Legislative Committee for consideration for inclusion in the FSBA Platform OR whether the proposal should be referred to FSBA staff to monitor.

Based on this review, FSBA staff drafted a PROPOSED FSBA 2018 Legislative Platform and Federal Platform. In early October, the Committee held an online session to allow members to discuss and ask questions about the proposed platform. In late October, the Committee met to debate and adopt the FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platforms. The Legislative Platform focuses on measuring student success, hiring experienced educators, keeping students and communities safe, supporting public school choice, and leveraging the use of federal funds. The Committee and FSBA Staff are in the process of developing background materials and key concepts for each platform item. The FSBA 2018 Legislative Platform is attached with this report.

In November, the Committee held the first in a series of regular GoToMeeting sessions to improve legislative advocacy and to participate in timely updates on the work of the Legislature during the period of Interim Committee Meetings and during the regular Legislative Session. The Committee circulated a Doodle Survey to allow members to sign up to travel to Tallahassee during the Legislative Session to meet with legislators, attend committee meetings, and participate in related activities. In addition, Committee members were asked to complete a short questionnaire seeking information about members who have a close relationship with one or more legislators and/or other state leaders and/or have a particular interest or expertise that can enhance FSBA's advocacy with policy makers. The Committee is also actively monitoring the work of the Constitution Revision Commission.

In an effort to strengthen the Legislative Committee and streamline the Platform development process, the Committee has prepared some proposed revisions the FSBA Policies that will be considered during the Legislative Committee meeting scheduled during the Annual Joint Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Goodwin, Chair, Legislative Committee
Mike Pressley, Vice Chair, Legislative Committee