

FSBA Legislative Committee Report

2017-2018 Annual 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 – Subcommittee 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)

October 26, 2017 – FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platform Adoption Meeting

November 17, 2017 – Legislative Session Interim Committee Meetings Update (Via GoToMeeting)

December 8, 2017 – Via GoToMeeting

January 12, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

January 19, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

January 26, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

February 2, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

February 7-8, 2018 – FSBA Day in the Legislature Conference

February 16, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

February 23, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

March 2, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

March 9, 2018 – Via GoToMeeting

Main actions taken/accomplishments this year:

In July, the Legislative Committee began the process for developing the FSBA 2018 Legislative and Federal Platforms.

In August, Committee members met to review the work accomplished in 2016-2017 and to discuss various issues and procedural plans. The Committee discussed several suggestions to improve the work and efficiency of the Committee including, among other things, extending the term of service from 1 year to 2 years and 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 and the practice of having Committee members in Tallahassee for all relevant weeks of the Interim and regular Session. 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.

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 and the number of districts making submissions. In September, the Platform Committee met to review the proposals that had been submitted to determine if each proposal met the criteria laid out in the FSBA Policy Manual. In October, the Committee held an online Q&A session to allow FSBA members to call in to ask questions about the Proposed Platforms. Later that month, the Committee met to debate and adopt the Final 2018 Platforms.

In November, the Committee began holding regular GoToMeeting sessions during the Legislature's Interim Committee Meetings. In addition, Committee members began signing up to sign up to travel to Tallahassee during the Legislative Session. The Committee also began to actively monitor the work of the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) and to develop issue briefs and talking points on several CRC proposals that are of interest to school districts.

In an effort to strengthen the Legislative Committee and streamline the Platform development process, the Committee prepared some proposed revisions the FSBA Policies that were considered and approved by the Legislative Committee held during the Annual Joint Conference. These changes were subsequently approved by the FSBA Board of Directors.

In January through March, the Committee continued holding weekly GoToMeeting sessions in order to keep Legislative Committee and Subcommittee members and others up-to-date on legislative activities as well as the activities of the CRC. In addition, in February, the Committee worked to coordinate and participate in the Day in the Legislature Conference. More than 130 school board members and others attended the conference. In addition, several legislators, Commissioner Pam Stewart, and others addressed the conference attendees during the annual breakfast meeting. After the 2018 Legislative Session adjourned, the Committee assisted in planning and carrying out a series of Legislative Review Workshops and Webinars that were attended by more than 200 school board members, superintendents, district staff, and others.

Throughout the spring, the Committee continued to monitor the work of the CRC. In addition to providing testimony and issuing Calls to Action on education related proposals, the committee submitted a letter to CRC chairman, Carlos Beruff to express concerns about specific proposals (*the letter to Chair Beruff is posted with this report*).

In keeping with the approved changes to the FSBA Policy Manual, the Committee has begun the development of the 2019 Legislative Platform. The Committee has prepared a report on the objectives and progress in accomplishing the 2018 Legislative Platform that will be made available at our final scheduled Legislative Review schduled for Friday during this Annual Joint Conference. Work on developing the 2019 Legislative Platform will be carried out according to a new timeline that will complete the platform adoption process one month earlier than in prior years. Members will receive a memorandum and related materials regarding development of the 2019 Legislative Platform next week (*the proposed 2019 Platform Development Timeline is posted with this report*).

Unfinished Business and Recommendations:

- We recommend that the members of the 2018-2019 Committee undergo specific training during the summer to better understand the legislative process, key issues, and expectations for their involvement in the Committee.
- We recommend that the Committee maintain the practice of holding regular teleconference meetings at least monthly during Interim Legislative Committee meetings and weekly during the Legislative Session.
- We recommend that the Committee closely monitor legislative elections and promptly send congratulatory letters to those elected or re-elected.
- We recommend that the Committee designate a Task Force/Subcommittee to develop a brief primer on key education issues to be made available to legislators, particularly newly elected legislators.

Respectfully submitted,

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