

REVISED
LEGISLATIVE & LOBBYING
COMMITTEE AGENDA

Called by: Jaime Salgado, Chairman
Members: Paul Arena, Aaron Booker,
Tim Nabors, Valerie Hanserd, John F.
Sweeney, John Penney

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024
TIME: 5:30 PM
LOCATION: ROOM 510
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BLDG
404 ELM STREET
ROCKFORD, IL 61101

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of December 5, 2023 and January 3, 2024 Minutes
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Legislative and Lobbying Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgement by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. Resolution in support of the Regional Office of Education (Boone and Winnebago Counties) Alternative Education Programs for K-5th Grade Students
- F. Strategic Funding Assessment
- G. Current Legislation/Legislative Updates
- H. DC Fly-In
- I. Future Agenda Items
- J. Adjournment

Winnebago County Board
Legislative & Lobbying Committee Meeting
County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Conference Room 510
Rockford, IL 61101

Tuesday, December 5, 2023
5:30 PM

Present:

Jaime Salgado, **Chairperson**
Paul Arena
Aaron Booker
Valerie Hanserd
Tim Nabors

Others Present:

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman
Marlana Dokken, Director, Chairperson's Office of Criminal
Justice Initiatives
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing
Melinda Macias, Purchasing Specialist, Purchasing

Absent:

John Penney
John F. Sweeney

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval October 3, 2023 Minutes
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Legislative and Lobbying Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgement by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. State Lobbyist RFQ Responses – Discussion
- F. Strategic Funding Priorities – Discussion
- G. Future Agenda Items
- H. Adjournment

Call to Order

Chairperson Salgado called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Roll Call

Chairperson Salgado yes, Mr. Arena yes, Mr. Booker yes, Mr. Nabors yes, Ms. Hanserd yes.

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to allow Mr. Penney to participate via Zoom.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Booker.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of October 3, 2023 Minutes

Motion: Mr. Booker. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Chairperson Salgado called for any comments or discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comment

Chairperson Salgado omitted reading the Public Comment Section of the Agenda due to no one present to speak.

State Lobbyist RFQ Responses – Discussion

Discussion took place on the four RFQ's that were received by the bid deadline.

- A discussion followed.

Discussion took place on scheduling Lobbyist interviews, Friday, December 15, 2023 before the Legislative session begins January 8, 2024.

- A discussion followed.

Discussion took place on the cost of the State Lobbyists.

- A discussion followed.

Strategic Funding Priorities – Discussion

A Strategic Action Plan for 2024 is being created to have the portfolio ready for upcoming grants. A list of funding requests will be distributed to committee members.

- A discussion followed.

Future Agenda Items

- Develop Legislative Agendas for upcoming trips to Washington, DC.
- Coordinate with Mercury to schedule trips to Washington, DC to meet with Legislators.

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Mr. Booker. Second: Ms. Hanserd.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Administrative Assistant

Winnebago County Board
Legislative & Lobbying Committee Meeting
County Administration Building
404 Elm Street, Conference Room 510
Rockford, IL 61101

Wednesday, January 3, 2024
5:30 PM

Present:

Jaime Salgado, **Chairperson**
Paul Arena
Aaron Booker
Valerie Hanserd
Tim Nabors
John Penney
John F. Sweeney

Others Present:

Joseph Chiarelli, County Board Chairman
Hope Edwards, Director, Purchasing
Melinda Macias, Purchasing Specialist, Purchasing

AGENDA:

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Minutes - None
- D. Public Comment – This is the time we invite the public to address the Legislative and Lobbying Committee with issues and concerns. We ask you to limit your comments to three minutes. Personal attacks or inappropriate language of any sort will not be tolerated. We will allow a maximum of five speakers on a first come basis with sign up at the meeting. Speakers may not address zoning matters which are pending before the ZBA, the Zoning Committee or the County Board. Personnel matters or pending or threatened litigation may not be addressed in open session. An individual may speak a maximum of three times per calendar year on the same topic. This prohibition shall include the repetition of the same topic in a statement on what is purported to be a different topic. After acknowledgement by the chair, please stand and state your name. Thank you.
- E. State Lobbyist Selection
- F. Future Agenda Items
- G. Adjournment

Call to Order

Roll Call – Chairperson Jaime Salgado yes, Paul Arena yes, Aaron Booker yes, Valerie Hanserd yes, Tim Nabors yes, John Penney yes, John F. Sweeney yes.

Approval of Minutes - None

Public Comment

Reading of the Public Comment Section of the Agenda was omitted due to no one present to speak.

State Lobbyist Selection

Chairperson Salgado thanked Marlana Dokken and Melinda Macias for organizing the meeting.

The Legislative & Lobbyist committee members reviewed the presentations and scoring.

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to approve Phelps Barry & Associates as the State Lobbyist.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Nabors.

- Chairperson Salgado called for any discussion.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion followed to confirm tracking software is utilized by Phelps Barry & Associates and will be included in the final contract to be approved by the County Board.

Future Agenda Items

- Chairman Chiarelli is attending the 2024 National Conference of Regions hosted by NARC in February
- Plans are for Legislative & Lobbying committee members to meet with legislators in Washington, DC in March 2024.
- Staffing Retired Security Officers

Motion to Adjourn

Chairperson Salgado called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Hanserd. Second: Mr. Arena.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Nancy Bleile

Administrative Assistant



Resolution Executive Summary

Prepared By: Marlana Dokken
Committee: Legislative & Lobbying Committee
Committee Date: February 28, 2024
Board Date: March 14, 2024
Resolution Title: Resolution in support of the Regional Office of Education (Boone and Winnebago Counties) Alternative Education Programs For K-5th Grade Students

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Was item budgeted? n/a | Appropriation Amount: n/a |
| If not, explain funding source: | |
| ORG/OBJ/Project Code: n/a | Descriptor: n/a |

Background Information:

The Regional Office of Education (Boone and Winnebago Counties) has implemented Alternative Education Programs for some of our county's most challenging and vulnerable middle, and high school aged students. The Regional Office of Education has requested action in the Illinois General Assembly to allow for Alternative Education Programs to be implemented for K-5th grade students throughout Winnebago County, Illinois.

Being partially funded by the County of Winnebago's annual budget, the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois urges the Illinois General Assembly to act in support of the program's expansion to include K-5th grade students throughout Winnebago County, Illinois. See attached Exhibit A to the Resolution.

Costs: n/a

Recommendation:

The Legislative and Lobbying Committee recommends approval of this Resolution.

Legal Review:

n/a

Follow-Up:

Winnebago County Administration will submit a copy of this Resolution to all Winnebago County state legislators upon its adoption.

R E S O L U T I O N
of the
COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS

Sponsored by: John Sweeney

Submitted by: Legislative & Lobbying Committee

2024 CR

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION (BOONE
AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES) ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR K-5TH
GRADE STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the Regional Office of Education (Boone and Winnebago Counties) is partially funded by the County of Winnebago's annual budget, and

WHEREAS, the Regional Office of Education's role in each of the school districts throughout Winnebago County, Illinois is vital to the success of our children's education, and

WHEREAS, the Regional Office of Education has implemented Alternative Education Programs for middle and high school students to give a greater chance of success for some of our county's most challenging and vulnerable students, and

WHEREAS, the Regional Office of Education has requested action in the Illinois General Assembly to allow for Alternative Education Programs to be implemented for K-5th grade students throughout Winnebago County, Illinois and as further described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of the County of Winnebago, Illinois that it does fully support the mission of the Regional Office of Education (Boone and Winnebago Counties) Alternative Education Programs, and urges the Illinois General Assembly to act in support of the program's expansion to include K-5th grade students throughout Winnebago County, Illinois and as further described in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the County Board is hereby directed to prepare and deliver certified copies of this Resolution to all Winnebago County, Illinois state legislators upon its adoption.

Respectfully Submitted,
LEGISLATIVE & LOBBYING COMMITTEE

AGREE

DISAGREE

JAIME SALGADO, CHAIRMAN

JAIME SALGADO, CHAIRMAN

PAUL ARENA

PAUL ARENA

AARON BOOKER

AARON BOOKER

VALERIE HANSERD

VALERIE HANSERD

TIM NABORS

TIM NABORS

JOHN PENNEY

JOHN PENNEY

JOHN F. SWEENEY

JOHN F. SWEENEY

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the County Board of the County of

Winnebago, Illinois this _____ day of _____ 2024.

ATTESTED BY:

JOSEPH V. CHIARELLI
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS

LORI GUMMOW
CLERK OF THE COUNTY BOARD
OF THE COUNTY OF WINNEBAGO, ILLINOIS

EXHIBIT A

In response to the evolving educational landscape and the unique needs of our community, there arises an imperative to establish a new program that addresses the diverse learning requirements of elementary students in grades K-5 within Rockford Public Schools, in collaboration with the Regional Office of Education. This endeavor is fueled by a shared commitment to providing innovative and inclusive educational opportunities that foster academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and community engagement.

Rockford, a vibrant and dynamic community, comprises a spectrum of students with varying learning styles, needs, and backgrounds. As we embrace the principles of equity and diversity, it is evident that a one-size-fits-all approach may not fully cater to the distinct learning trajectories of all our students. The traditional educational framework, while effective for many, may leave some students underserved, potentially hindering their holistic development and future prospects.

Collaborating with the Regional Office of Education, which boasts a wealth of expertise in educational innovation and community partnerships, presents a remarkable opportunity to construct a program that is responsive to the unique needs of our students. This partnership allows us to leverage local resources, tap into the experience of dedicated educators, and draw upon research-driven best practices to establish a program that empowers students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

By creating a tailored program that recognizes and celebrates the individual strengths and challenges of our elementary students, we aim to cultivate a rich and supportive learning environment. This program will champion a comprehensive approach, encompassing personalized instruction, social-emotional learning, hands-on experiences, and collaborative community involvement. As we nurture the educational journey of our young learners, we aspire to equip them with not only academic prowess but also the skills and values necessary to succeed in an ever-changing world.

The initiative to establish a new program in partnership with the Regional Office of Education aligns with Rockford Public Schools' overarching commitment to educational excellence and equitable access to quality education. By embracing innovation, inclusion, and collaboration, we aspire to create a transformative educational experience that propels our elementary students toward a future of achievement and fulfillment.

Program Vision:

Our vision is to forge a pioneering educational pathway that sets a new standard of excellence for elementary students in grades K-5 within Rockford Public Schools. In collaboration with the Regional Office of Education, we envision a program that transcends traditional boundaries, fostering a dynamic and inclusive learning ecosystem that empowers each student to reach their full potential.

At the heart of our vision is a commitment to personalized learning, where the unique strengths, interests, and needs of every student are recognized and celebrated. Guided by the principles of innovation and collaboration, we will design a program that offers tailored educational experiences, equipping students with the tools they need to navigate a rapidly evolving world.

This visionary program will be characterized by whole-child development, encompassing not only social-emotional growth and community engagement but a refreshing approach to academic integration in the alternative setting. Through dynamic curricula, experiential learning opportunities, and partnerships with local organizations, we will empower students to become critical thinkers, compassionate citizens, and active contributors to their communities.

Regional Office of Education will amplify RPS' district vision, harnessing collective wisdom, resources, and expertise to craft an educational journey that has not yet been explored in the public sector in Illinois. Together, we will bridge the gap between educational theory and practice, drawing on research-driven insights to create an environment that supports the social and emotional needs of students as a first priority.

Key Principles of the Vision

- **Individualized Learning Pathways:** We will center our educational approach around the unique needs, interests, and learning styles of each child. Our team will take the time to truly know their students and tailor their methods to ensure meaningful engagement and growth.
- **Social Emotional Development:** We will prioritize the SEL development of every child, nurturing their intellectual, emotional, social, and physical well-being. Mindfulness practices, arts, physical activities, and character education will be integrated into our daily routines.
- **Flexible Learning Spaces:** Our classrooms will be designed to be flexible, adaptive spaces that accommodate different learning styles and activities. Students will be able to choose from various seating options, collaborative work areas, and cozy reading corners once earned.
- **Inclusive Community:** Our classrooms will embrace a diverse and inclusive community where every child feels valued and respected. We will foster a sense of belonging, promoting empathy, kindness, and open communication among students, staff, and families.
- **Individualized Progress Tracking:** Traditional grades take a backseat to comprehensive assessment methods that consider each child's progress, strengths, and areas for growth. Student-led conferences and portfolios will showcase their accomplishments and growth over time.
- **Collaborative Learning:** Collaboration is a cornerstone of our approach. Students work in diverse groups, fostering teamwork, communication skills, and mutual respect. This prepares them for the collaborative nature of the modern world.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to evolving and refining our educational approach based on research, feedback from students and families, and the changing

needs of the world. We will embrace change as a means to provide the best possible education.

•

Program Philosophy

The Summit Academy Alternative Elementary Program philosophy is centered on social-emotional health, building relationships, and is rooted in the principles of restorative practices and whole-child education. This philosophy acknowledges that academic success is intrinsically tied to emotional well-being and the cultivation of positive interpersonal connections. In essence, our philosophy strives to create a transformative educational experience that goes beyond traditional academic achievement. It seeks to nurture students as whole individuals, equipping them not only with knowledge and skills but also with the emotional intelligence and relational capabilities necessary to thrive in an interconnected world.

Below is a draft of the ROE educational philosophy:

Whole-Child Well Being: At the core of this alternative learning philosophy is the belief that a student's well-being, both emotionally and mentally, is foundational to their overall development. Recognizing that students come to the classroom with diverse backgrounds and experiences, the philosophy aims to create a nurturing and inclusive environment that supports their emotional growth.

Restorative Practices: Central to this philosophy are restorative practices that emphasize repairing harm and restoring relationships when conflicts arise. Rather than punitive measures, the focus is on understanding the root causes of negative behaviors and facilitating healing through open dialogue and accountability. Restorative circles, conferences, and mediation are integral components of addressing conflicts and fostering empathy among students.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): The philosophy integrates SEL into every aspect of the curriculum. Students are taught essential life skills such as emotional regulation, empathy, self-awareness, and effective communication. SEL is not a separate program but is woven seamlessly into academic subjects, enabling students to apply these skills in real-life contexts.

Building Positive Relationships: Recognizing the importance of positive relationships in the learning process, the philosophy places a strong emphasis on building authentic connections among students, teachers, and peers. Teachers serve as mentors and guides, cultivating a sense of trust and support that enhances the overall learning experience.

Community and Collaboration: This philosophy fosters a sense of community within the classroom and extends it to involve parents, guardians, and the wider community. Collaborative partnerships between the school, families, and local organizations are encouraged to provide a holistic support system for students' growth.

Personalized Learning: Acknowledging that each student has unique strengths, challenges, and learning styles, the philosophy promotes personalized learning pathways. Students are given

opportunities to explore their interests, set their learning goals, and engage in projects that resonate with them.

Accountability and Growth: Rather than shying away from mistakes, this philosophy views them as opportunities for growth. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their actions and learn from their experiences. The focus is on learning from failures and using them as stepping stones toward improvement.

Empowerment and Voice: Students are empowered to express their thoughts, opinions, and feelings, fostering a sense of agency and ownership in their learning journey. Their voices are valued and integrated into decision-making processes.

Cultural Competency and Inclusivity: The philosophy acknowledges the diversity of students' backgrounds, experiences, and identities. The curriculum reflects a commitment to inclusivity, embracing various perspectives and fostering a culture of respect and understanding.

Strategic Funding Assessment

Current Legislation/Legislative Updates

DC Fly-In