

Springfield Council of PTAs Meeting November 1, 2023

York Elementary

- I. **Opening of meeting with Pledge of Allegiance by York Elementary students**
- II. **Welcome from Donna Petiford. History of York provided and history of PTA from National down to SCPTA which was founded in Springfield in 1909.**
- III. **Stephanie Hein and Betsy Fogle present for legislative discussion.**
 - A. Betsy Fogle – House District 135
 1. Served in Jefferson City for 3 years.
 2. Serves on Appropriations committee – helps being on the minority party
 3. Healthcare reform and fiscal review
 4. Background in healthcare
 5. Rep. Fogle commented on the importance of school safety & mental health in our public schools
 - B. Stephanie Hein – House District 136
 1. Completed first year of her term.
 2. Appropriations committee and sub-committee for general administration, and on government accountability
 3. Background in higher education
 4. Relies on us to keep her updated to know what is happening in our schools. Has a rich history of family members who worked and retired from SPS
 5. Public education is a great equalizer for all students

Landscape of Jefferson City

- 63 members of House, 52 Democrats and
- 34 Senators, 10 Democrats, 24 Republicans
- One party has more power than the other – partisan split on school choice

Expected legislation to impact schools

- Expecting continued voucher or private school conversation for reimbursement
- Curriculum mandates will likely be re-filed

Rep. Fogle: A positive accomplished 2 years ago – increase in pay for teachers. Blended with state dollars and local dollars. For some rural districts, getting 25-38k was not possible for local funding. Putting it on the state last year, it took the burden off of the local budget. \$45k average

pay in Springfield. Our budget is a moral document. We have to change the culture around public education. We still have to do more to invest and retain great educators. **Rep. Hein:** The next concern is that the increase in wages aren't in state statute and can go away any time.

Rep. Fogle: Spent millions to invest in early education and pre-k providers to create more access across the state. Similar to salaries, the need and resources still don't match and more work is needed.

Best way for PTA members to send concerns:

- Rep. Hein: Email or call Rep. Hein's office. She reads the email and enjoys hearing the thoughts on what is happening. She views PTA members as leaders for our schools.
- Rep. Fogle: Email. Please contact us even if you think we agree with you on a topic. We track for and against topics. Meet with us when we are in Springfield. Let us know why you agree/disagree with something.

IV. Dr. Woodard presentation:

- Last night at Cox Trunk or Treat event – 3,500 attending – gave out information on attendance and handed out candy
- Families in need for Christmas – reach out to Dr. Woodard on how to apply
- Vouchers – food, clothing, hygiene, shoes and haircuts – 925 Oct 24;
- SHINE numbers & ESSER funds going away after this year – free for anyone on free & reduced lunches