

SBE, 15 November 2017

Item W

Proposal for Discussion:

Board Communications with the Legislature

The Legislative Subcommittee is particularly sensitive as to how we, as State Board of Education members, present ourselves at the Statehouse. Members of the State Board may communicate with Legislators on education matters or visit the Statehouse only after first notifying the Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee.

Members of the State Board may serve on a non-Board committee, task force, or other group related to education only after first notifying the Chair of the Board.

In all situations, Board members are to be guided by norms adopted by the Board, 30 August 2017, to wit:

“In public communications outside Board meetings, such as with the media, legislators, and interest groups, Board members must balance their personal rights of free speech with their roles as members of the Board.

“Board members’ authority exists only in duly-warned meetings of the Board or its committees. Members may not seek to influence or change the outcomes of Board decisions except in such meetings.

“In all Board matters, only the Chair (or designee) is authorized to speak publicly for the Board. Other members of the Board may publicly express their views on Board matters so long as they do so in a manner consistent with the norms of Board meetings and so long as they clarify explicitly that they speak only for themselves as individual Board members.”