

ED-RED Representative May Board Notes

May 4, 2020

2020-2021 Member Meeting Schedule/ED-RED Dues

- The ED-RED Executive Board is finalizing the 2020-2021 Member Meeting schedule and will share it next month.
- ED-RED dues letters will be going out this month for the 2020-2021 membership year. We will NOT be raising dues for the seventh year in a row.
- Thank you in advance for your support and membership!

What is the advocacy role of ED-RED districts during this time?

- What we are learning is that as the legislative work groups begin to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on schools, ED-RED local legislators are looking for feedback and input from their local school districts on how you are planning for next year (curriculum, budget, etc.)
- Keep in mind that our legislators are NOT part of the various webinars and Zoom meetings that you are participating in meaning they may not be as up to date on the cash-flow issues or property tax delays or fall remote learning needs assessments that you are preparing for.
- Please take the opportunity to reach out and share any of these resources with them!

Facebook Page!

- ED-RED launched its Facebook page on May 1st. We added Facebook to our social media platforms in addition to the ED-RED YouTube Channel and Twitter.
- ED-RED will be utilizing Facebook as tool to engage with our members and local legislators on a more regular basis.
- Be sure you are following our Facebook page!

COVID-19 District Impact and Update

- ED-RED is continuing to support members as we navigate the impact of COVID-19 (remote learning, graduation requirements, etc.).
- We are also meeting regularly with our partner organizations (LEND, SCOPE, LUDA, and IHSDO) to digest and collaborate on what is learned from the Governor's daily press briefings, ISBE guidance, and other reports from the field.
- ED-RED will continue to work to support our members as we transition from implementing remote learning plans this past spring to working to understand what next year's State budget will look like (as well as what next school year will look like).

- If your school board members or administrators have any questions or need support, please do not hesitate to reach out to Sarah Hartwick and the ED-RED staff.

ED-RED's FY 21 Budget Recommendations

- Last week's FTFTYD referenced ED-RED's FY 21 Budget Considerations. This white paper outlined a list of items that we recommend be considered/included for the State's FY21 budget discussions, listed below:
 - Flat funding for EBF
 - Tax levy look back provision
 - TIF reform for schools to have a proportional vote
 - Minimum DSEB levels
- Many conversations with local ED-RED legislators, state policy leaders and the Governor's office have been had to learn the discussions at each chamber's budget work group meetings (the work groups are all meeting on a regular basis). We have learned the following from some individual members in both chambers:
 - The budget work groups were just beginning to discuss revenue projections.
 - Several legislators have communicated that the goal is to "preserve what we have as much as possible and fill gaps with federal dollars."
 - It is important that we are sharing what we are learning/expecting to be the impact of postponed collections/delayed property tax bills.

Professional Review Panel Update

- The State's Professional Review Panel met last week to discuss the "current impact on statutory language on a lesser than \$300 million amount for EBF."
- The discussion focused on two options being presented in the event that less than \$300 million is appropriated for tier distribution in the FY 21 State budget. To be clear, neither option considers an impact on schools if \$0 (or less) is appropriated (though if that does happen, technical changes will still be needed to the EBF law).
 - "Option 1" is being pushed by the original drafters of EBF and calls for a technical change to the tier 1 threshold that would allow tier 1 to become "more shallow and larger."
 - "Option 2" is supported by ISBE and instead shifts tier money to cover more districts by targeting dollars districts with higher poverty percentages.
- We have shared the options with our Finance Ad Hoc Committee and other ED-RED school business officials. Initial feedback indicates that unless you are a tier 1 district or a low tier 2, neither option has significant impact.
- It is still not clear what the GA is considering in terms of final revenue numbers for FY21.
- Our advocacy continues to focus on the items included in our FY 21 Budget Considerations that focuses on the need to ensure stability for all school districts and maintain level funding for FY21.