

# **The DAA - Legislative Advocacy and Action at Work**

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# Introductions

Susan Harkin (Moderator)  
*Chief Operating Officer*  
*Community Unit School District #300*



Todd Drafall (Speaker)  
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*Proviso Township High School District #209*



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# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- History and Formation

- In the early 2000's Dr. Ron Everett (IASBO's Executive Director at the time) recommended that the IASBO Board create a group that would advocate for Federal and State legislation beneficial for public schools and act as the legislative advocacy arm of IASBO.
- The group was modeled after the IASA legislative advocacy committee. In 2004 the IASBO Delegate Advisory Assembly was formed and it meets quarterly. The DAA was designed to be a mechanism to share legislative issues and concerns among members, for disseminating information to the membership, for developing strategies to address those concerns, and to make recommendations to the Board regarding positions to take, and an agenda to advance, for the betterment of our schools.

# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- The group is comprised of delegates from across the State representing Regional IASBO Groups, Statewide PDC's, our Service Associates, and other interested parties. The IASBO Board can appoint individuals with areas of expertise not found in existing members and while anyone can attend the meetings to learn and observe, only duly elected/appointed members (or their alternates) are eligible to vote on Recommendations to the IASBO Board of Directors.
- The DAA was established to discuss and debate potential legislation and its impact on our public schools, as well as taken positions and develop plans of actions to help ensure that favorable legislation is enacted, and unfavorable legislation is defeated, whenever possible.

# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- Current Alignment and Activities
  - Recently we have been focused on getting legislative information and updates out to members (through the Alliance Legislative Reports), identifying potential legislation to advocate for or against (as outlined in our IASBO White Papers and Policy/Position Statements), working with our lobbyists and select legislators to advance certain legislation (through Vision 20/20 and other initiatives), and making sure that we have a place at the table on high level task forces and committees that are a precursor to significant legislation affecting our public schools (ie. Certified Nurses, Pension Reform, PE Requirements, the EBFM Funding Formula, Teacher and SubCertification, TIF Reform, P-20 Council, etc.).

# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- Submission Process

- Any member can submit an issue to the DAA for consideration.
- Forms are available on the IASBO website (under DAA).
- Individuals may present the item or have a delegate do so.
- There may be legislation you would like developed or a legislative issue you would like the DAA and IASBO to promote.
- The DAA can incorporate it as part of their legislative action plan, recommend action/position to the Board of Directors, table for further review and clarification, develop a task force or committee to research, or seek out legislative assistance.
- Both continuing and completed DAA issues and positions are listed on the website, along with their current status.

# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- Challenges

- Actually introducing and advancing legislation that is positive and productive for our schools...instead of just talking about it.
- How to improve outreach and get our members more involved and engaged with both their local legislators and the DAA.
- How to better align efforts with our partners (IASA/IASB/IPA).
- How to make the DAA more relevant and influential.
- How to generate more debate and discourse among the legislators and educate them regarding public school issues.
- How to become the “go to” organization for our legislators and the statewide elected officials.

# DAA: Legislative Advocacy

- Future Direction

- Does the current structure, goals and action plan meet the needs of the organization and its members, or should this group be reformed in another way with another purpose?
- Should the DAA have more of an immediate/direct impact on legislation affecting our schools, or should we work in the background through task forces and committees (or both)?
- How can we help increase legislative advocacy among our members and increase the grass roots power of IASBO?
- We need your feedback and insight to ensure we are meeting your needs and advocating for what you feel is important for IASBO and your school district!!!



# ***Questions and Answers***

*We thank you for your time!*

# Presenters:

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