

MADISON COUNTY
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE
157 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025 RM 203
Thursday, April 10, 2025
3:16 PM – 3:56 PM

Chairman Palmero called the regular meeting to order at 3:16 PM. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were:

PRESENT: Jason Palmero, Terry Eaker, Linda Ogden, Shawndell Wilson, Dalton Gray, Alison Lamothe, Denise Wiehardt

ABSENT: Ron Simpson

OTHERS: Liz Happold, Cynthia Ellis, David Livingstone, Vanessa Jones, Maggie Brueggemann, Linda Wolfe, Rob Werden, Chris Slusser, Brian Nottrott

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Member Wilson entered the meeting at 3:19 PM

Regional Superintendent of Schools Rob Werden addressed the committee to share his perspective on House Bill 2827 and the accompanying Resolution Opposing HB2827: Defending Parental Rights in Education. He clarified that he was not involved in drafting the resolution and expressed concerns about its current form. Mr. Werden urged the committee not to release the resolution to the public in its present state.

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Ms. Lamothe moved, seconded by Ms. Wiehardt to approve the September 2024 meeting minutes.

VOICE VOTE BY ALL MEMBERS. MOTION CARRIED.

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The following was submitted for discussion and approval:

1. Resolution Opposing HB2827: Defending Parental Rights in Education

Mr. Gray moved, seconded by Mr. Eaker to approve the resolution as presented.

The committee engaged in a thorough discussion with Mr. Werden and Chairman Slusser regarding the resolution. Mr. Werden pointed out that since the resolution was drafted, the bill has undergone amendments, with additional changes anticipated. He suggested tabling the resolution until the final language of the bill is available for review. During the extended discussion, committee members further explored and exchanged views on various topics, including homeschool statistics, the bill's potential effects on homeschooling families, implications for funding, its impact on both public and private schools, proposed mandates, potential consequences, and the impact of the non-binding resolution. Following discussion, the committee agreed to postpone action on the resolution until the next Government Relations Committee meeting on April 14th, at 5:00 PM.

Mr. Gray moved, seconded by Ms. Ogden to postpone the resolution until the next Government Relations Committee meeting.

The ayes and nays called on the motion to postpone resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Palmero, Eaker, Ogden, Wilson, Gray, Lamothe, Wiehardt

NAYS: None

MOTION CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Member Eaker thanked Mr. Werden for attending the meeting and sharing his expertise.

NEW BUSINESS: - None.

Mr. Eaker moved, seconded by Ms. Wiehardt to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 PM. *MOTION CARRIED.*

/mds