

Legislative Committee Minutes

December 19, 2007, 1:30 PM

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Blake, at Delta Charter Township Hall on December 19, 2007.

Present: Todd Blake, Ann Ulrich, Chris Swope, Janice Vedder, Sharon Tischler, Kathy Dornan, Heidi Isakson, Betty Morlock, Bill Zaagman (Government Consultant Services) and Evan Hope (MAMC Board Director)

Absent: Susan Morrow, Toni Bartholomew, Terri Kowal, Ann Marie Becker, Joan Raap, Lorna Wilson

Agenda. The agenda was approved as submitted.

Minutes. The Minutes of October 17, 2007 were approved.

School Election Consolidation

Todd gave a brief summary of the MAMC's position on school election date reform, with regards to what the current law requires, what the Legislative Committee's sub-committee on reform had negotiated with representatives from both state associations for school boards and county clerks, and the most recent legislative movement on HB 4507 that failed by a slim margin.

Kathy reported there was a strong drive to the Legislature from Oakland, Wayne & Macomb County clerks, led by Oakland County Clerk Ruth Johnson, to amend HB 4507 with the following changes:

- removed annual elections
- removed May elections
- allowed November-odd or August-even elections
- allowed November-even elections, but only with the approval of the clerk

Todd noted that although the changes were favorable for local clerks, the recent legislative drive may not have boded well with school board representatives. Chris reminded the committee negotiations were done in good faith and future negotiations with school board representatives may be difficult.

Bill noted schools will not settle for 'no annual' or 'no May' options and asked if the Committee would like to move forward without any future school board collaborations.

Following discussion there was a consensus to prioritize MAMC objectives to school election date reform as follows:

- 1) Elections to elect school board members should be held regularly on the already existing elections in November or August
- 2) There should be no 'annual' elections to elect school board officials
- 3) There should be no regular 'May' elections to elect school board officials

Bill noted HB 4507 is connected with 4506 and neither can pass without the other. He also noted 4507 will most likely have the 'presidential primary' wording removed from it and whatever changes take place will still have to be presented to the Senate again.

Todd will provide a summary of the Committee's position with reference to survey results, for the membership.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.

Respectfully,
Todd Blake, Committee Chair