LEGISLATIVE ISSUES
Engaging Legislators

• FWCS employs a lobbyist with Bose Public Affairs – Justin Swanson
• FWCS participates in associations that lobby on behalf of public education
• Dr. Robinson and Kathy Friend meet regularly with key legislators
Engaging Legislators

• Who
  – Local legislators
  – Those in key positions

• How to Contact
  – Call State line
  – Handwritten letters
  – E-mails
  – In person (follow-up with thank you note)
Engaging Legislators

• How to Communicate
  – Be concise about concern and action requested (keep it simple)
  – Provide some background about the district or your school and how affected
  – Be respectful; remain calm
  – Give appreciation for consideration
  – Give thanks for positive votes
BILLS OF INTEREST
Education Bills

- 1,347 total bills introduced
- 71 bills assigned to Senate Committee on Education and Career Development
- 58 bills assigned to House Education Committee
- 30+ bills introduced related to school safety
SB 246 – Failed

• Operating and Capital Referendums
  – Currently may hold in primary or general election
  – This bill only allows general election
  • There is no general election every 4 years

• FWCS Recommendation: Continue to allow districts a choice based on their unique needs
HB 1089 – Failed

• 2017-18 – all kindergarten funded same as other grades, no matter age

• 2018-19 – any student not 5 by August 1 was not funded

• HB 1089 – allows 4 year olds to be funded, but only allows 13 years of education to be funded

• Instead moved to HB 1001 – GOOD
  - Allows funding if 5 by Sept. 1 for 2019 and by Oct. 1 for 2020
HB 1003 – Opposed

• State revenue deposited in Education Fund also provides funds for operations
• School districts will annually transfer from Education Fund to Operations Fund
• HB 1009 passed last year provided districts with flexibility needed
• HB 1003 sets a limit of 15% transfer

• FWCS Recommendation: Each district is unique and should be allowed to transfer amount required
HB 1001

• School Funding Formula – NOT BAD
  – Average statewide per pupil increase
    • 2019-20 1.5%
    • 2020-21 1.7%
  – Increase for Special Ed Preschool – GOOD
HB 1001 - Positive

• ELL (English Language Learners) Increase – GOOD
  – 2019-21:
    • Governor proposed: $14.8 million
    • House version: $20 million, 15% increase
HB 1001

• Voucher Increase - Opposed
  – 2018-19: $162.7 million
  – 2019-20: $179.5 million, 10% increase
  – 2020-21: $189.7 million, 6% increase

– FWCS Recommendation:
  • Use increase to fund public schools ($1 million for FWCS)
  • Require financial accountability for schools accepting vouchers

• New Charters: Increase $11 million each year
Enrollment
Pre-K to Grade 12

(1) 2011-12 Vouchers start
(2) 2013-14 Imagine Charter School closed
(3) 2015-16 FWCS transportation changes

Enrollment History

(1) 2011-12 Vouchers start
(2) 2013-14 Imagine Charter School closed
(3) 2015-16 FWCS transportation changes
SB 132 – Opposed

- United States Civics Test – requirement to graduate from high school
- Beginning with the 2020-21 school year
- FWCS Recommendation: Do not require additional testing of students
HB 1404 – Opposed

• Post-secondary outcomes impact accountability grade of high school

• The State Board shall consider at least:
  – Successful completion of at least twelve credit hours at a higher education institution and continued enrollment and status of good standing
  – Successful completion of a high wage, high demand certificate as defined by the Department of Workforce Development
  – Enlistment in, and continued service in, any branch of the armed forces
  – How to account for adverse life experiences or other unique circumstances that occur after graduation.
HB 1641

• Currently required to leave closed building available to a charter school for two years – they may purchase for $1

• HB 1641 shortens the time to 90 days

• Requires to sell to a non-public/charter school for at least 50% of fair market value
Next Steps

• Board Work Session on status of legislation – March 7, 5 p.m.

  Justin Swanson, Bose Public Affairs

• Last day of session by April 29