 

PTSA Legislative Report November2022

2022 Georgia PTA Advocacy Day:

Georgia PTA Advocacy Day at the Capitol was held on Oct. 20,2022.

Several Guest speakers were present.

Leroy Tre' Hutchins, Cobb County School Board-Advocating Locally.

⦁ He talked about how to advocate locally at your school board level. Go to meetings, join the school council, call to action and email board members. The local board of education shall respond to recommendations of the council; within 60 days of being notified in writing of the recommendation.

Mary Robichaux, GA House Representative.

⦁ She is a parent advocate, healthcare expert. She talked about how to advocate with the Legislators, call representatives ,face to face meetings right after elections. Phone calls are more effective than emails, be specific in the email with some solutions to the problem and then follow up.

⦁ Mental health is a priority and more funding to be given to the school Counselors. She also talked about the pandemic and how teachers struggled with zoom and hybrid teaching. Also about Operation Warp Speed that helped developed a vaccine in one year.

Todd Jones, State House Representative.

⦁ He talked about improving education for children from birth to 4, he also emphasized on education for mothers so they can go back to school and improve their lifestyle.

⦁ He also talked about Technical colleges in GA and how the new mothers and other students can benefit from the technical education.

Dr. Stephen Owens, Senior Policy Analyst,Georgia Budget and Policy Institute.

⦁ He Talked about the budget and How Education in Georgia is Funded and what needs to change.

⦁ GA has less funding for poverty areas, one in 6th state except Maryland ,has teacher loss and more poverty.

⦁ How Georgia stacks up, $1000 more for high poverty schools, should support low income folks. We can make things better by advocating.

Lisa Morgan, President, Georgia Association of Educators.

⦁ As a former early childhood teacher for 21 years, she talked about the waivers given to local school systems about the class size which is harmful to students and educators, also the elimination of the need for standardized tests,and teacher shortage.

⦁ She also talked about teachers' retirement plans and social security. Also she talked about the importance of other staff members in the schools like cafeteria workers and custodians.

Joe Fleming, Director of Government Affairs,GAE.

⦁ He talked about how to advocate for our children by becoming a lobbyist.

Community Call to Action, Mental Health and Well-being.

National/GA PTA's Position:

⦁ PTA strongly encourages efforts to establish comprehensive community mental health providers to offer preventative and treatment services to children and adults.

⦁ Comprehensive mental health programs including access to psychologists, school counselors and social workers.

⦁ National PTA encouarges the state PTA to support the development of a comprehensive guidance counseling plan and seek funds for the implementation.

Community Call to Action, Teaching as a Profession

National/GA PTA's Position:

⦁ PTA supports programs and policies for the recruitment and retention of talented educators and support the adequate funding for development programs

⦁ PTA must encourage funding authorities to establish salaries commensurates with professional preparation and dedication for effective teaching

⦁ PTA supports the upgrade of the quality of public schools teachers, high standards for hiring, licensing and professional development of all educators.

Community Call to Action, Gun Safety and Violence Prevention.

National/GA PTA's Position:

PTA adopted the following measures to reduce gun violence:

⦁ Universal background checks, sales and online sales and all transactions.

⦁ Raising the federal minimum age to 21 for purchasing handguns, shotguns and rifles.

⦁ Increased penalties for transfer of handguns or semi automatics to juveniles for use in crime.

⦁ Enactment of federal Legislation that incentivizes states to adopt Extreme Risk Protection orders or Red flag laws.

⦁ Safe storage of firearms including safety locks and robust education programs to teach students, parents about gun safety and violence prevention. wrap around services for students who brought a firearm to school.

Community Call to Action, Lower Class Sizes.

National/GA PTA's Positions:

⦁ National PTA's position supports efforts at the federal, state, and local levels to reduce class size in the early grades for the purpose of improving children's academic achievement.

⦁ Georgia PTA's resolution encourages state education agencies and local school districts to develop policies and action plans to lower class sizes and support legislation to adequately fund to lower class sizes.

A copy of Georgia PTA 2022-2023 Advocacy Priorities Survey is included with the report.

 Respectfully Submitted,

 Rukhama Sayed

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