Paula Tibbitts

From: Monica Lester <monica.lester@neric.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:55 AM
To: Adrienne Leon; Andrew Giaquinto; Bob Bonaker; Breen, Taryn; Carrie Nyc-Chevrier; Chris Karwiel; Christopher Abdoo; Christopher Ruberti; Francis Rielly; Gregory Diefenbach; Jeffrey Rivenburg; Jennifer Bennett; Jessica Scheckton; Joanne Moran; Joseph Karas; Judith Keohe; Judy Frost; Kathy Cietek; Kathy Wetmore; Keith Heid; Kim Lewis; Kim Rohring; Kristin Barnhill; Mark Jones; Mary Beth Bruno; Mike Los; Monica Lester; Neil Sanders; Renee Sherwin; Sarah Morrison; Scott Hoot; Sherry Fisher; Stacey Mackey; Terry Gillooley; Tony DiPace; Tracy Fraleigh; Wendy Ashley; Amy Baluch; Andréa West; bushjill@shenschools.org; Carol Ratigan; Chris Robilotti; Christina Mahoney; Debbie Winter; Debra Colwell; Deborah Baron; Deborah Marriott; Fred Engelhardt; Jenna Bongermino; Jennifer Cornell; Katelin Pugliese; Kimberly Nugent; Lin Severance; Lisa Zaba Miller; Lori Caplan; Maria Tedeschi; Matthew Petrin; Maureen Long; Michael Nickson; Nicholas D'Aversa; Nicole Yamin; Nicole Graf; Pat Green; Rebecca Hull; Sue Starr; Tara Garceau; Timothy Mundell; Vicki Jones
Subject: FW: NYSCOSS Alert: Second Budget Votes to be Authorized

Hi all,
Mark asked me to forward this to the group.
Monica

From: Mark Jones
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Monica Lester <monica.lester@neric.org>
Cc: Jennifer Bennett <jennifer.bennett@neric.org>; Carol Ratigan <carol.ratigan@neric.org>
Subject: FW: NYSCOSS Alert: Second Budget Votes to be Authorized

Moninca-can you forward this to the SBO's as an FYI. Thank you

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From: Bob Lowry & Greg Berck <Advocacy@nyscoss.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Mark Jones <mark.jones@neric.org>
Subject: NYSCOSS Alert: Second Budget Votes to be Authorized

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June 11, 2020

Second Votes on School Budgets to be Authorized

Yesterday afternoon Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order to allow school districts a second budget vote, should voters not approve the budget after June 16. But the order did not prescribe a date. It concluded, "...any resubmission to the voters of the original or revised budget shall be conducted at a date and by a process determined by and subject to a future Executive Order, provided, however, such revote shall not occur prior to July 9, 2020."

We had had email exchanges and phone conversations with Assemblywoman Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) and her staff regarding her legislation to authorize an in-person second vote on July 28 and with the Governor's staff on a possible Executive Order. It was not clear to us what the Governor's order accomplished without establishing a date or procedures for the second vote.

Last evening, however, we received a letter from the Governor's office which we and the New York State School Boards Association were invited to share with our respective members. The letter begins by acknowledging that has been a challenging year and expresses gratitude for the work of school leaders, including on the initial vote process.

It explains,

"For planning purposes, we are working to address the opportunity for budget revotes where they are necessary, and will be scheduling a statewide budget revote date for either July 21, 2020 or July 28, 2020. These two dates were based on conversations with your representative organizations. We have also received your request for in-person elections and understand that access to electronic ballot counting machines is a priority for you. We will continue to address these issues and determine what actions are appropriate based on public health data. The more information we have at the time of the decision, the better we can assess issues that must be addressed."

The letter concludes,

"It is expected that we will be able to provide guidance to you on this process very shortly after the June school elections are completed, to ensure you have adequate time to prepare for any necessary vote."

The complete letter is available here.

Holding the vote earlier would allow affected districts more time before the start of classes to finalize staffing decisions and proceed with other tasks, such as constructing student schedules.

But a later date could increase the likelihood that the state and federal aid picture gets resolved, sparing districts from the prospect that state aid might change between the time boards approve budget proposals and when voters vote on those proposals.

A later date might also raise the chance for conducting an in-person vote.

Our understanding of the law is that districts pursuing a second vote would operate under a contingency budget starting on July 1, pending the results of the vote.

We expect to work with the Governor's staff and colleagues from NYSSBA to assure thorough consideration of practical issues with conducting second votes.

We will strongly oppose any voting process that would repeat the requirements of the first vote. We will advocate for allowing in-person voting—June 23 primary does so—and for authorizing absentee ballots on request for any voters who are concerned about illness, but without a requirement to mail actual absentee applications to all voters.

We are grateful for the Governor's action to authorize second votes and to Assemblywoman Paulin and the Senate co-sponsor of her legislation, Peter Harckham (D-Lewisboro) for their advocacy.

We are the New York State Council of School Superintendents - a professional and advocacy organization with over a century of service to school superintendents in New York State. The Council provides its more than 800 members with numerous professional development opportunities through LEAF, Inc., publications, and personal services, while advocating for public education and the superintendency.

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