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Political Advocacy Annual Report

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What has been accomplished?

1. Wrote articles for the Cardinal which provides advocacy ideas for language educators.
2. Attended winter meeting with State Representatives and OFLA President in order to discuss what the next steps are for advocacy at this time.
 - a. We decided that now is not the time to hire a lobbyist. However, we would like to bring someone on board (retired foreign language teacher) to become trained in lobbying that is educated in foreign language.
 - b. To create an advocacy tool kit for teachers addressed to individual stake holders. This is in the beginning stages. Currently one “brochure” has been created.
 - c. OFLA report will be sent to administrators and superintendents that advocates for foreign languages.
 - d. We discussed the importance of bringing on some “power-houses” to the Advocacy committee that have the ability to go the state house during the day and testify/ watch what is going on. We are currently in the process of finding these individuals.
 - e. The description for Advocacy Chair is as follows:
3. Attendance at the OFLA conference in order to complete the duties and responsibilities of board members.

Advocacy by definition:

Advocacy focuses on informing, educating and building public understanding about an issue. The goal is to educate broadly and to develop public awareness of specific issues by relying on non-partisan analysis, research studies, reports and other relevant information aimed at informing and educating the general public as well as policy makers.

Taken from: *National Council of State Supervisors for Languages(NCSSFL)*

www.ncssf.org

Job Description:

1. To aid in the education of the public about the importance of foreign language education.
 - a. Parents
 - b. Students
 - c. Administrators
 - d. School counselors
 - e. Teachers
 - f. School board members
 - g. Community

2. To create and provide advocacy resource tools and support for foreign language teachers:
 - a. To maintain current language programs
 - b. Encourage students to continue taking languages K-16
 - c. Educate stakeholders on importance of early language learning
3. To help reduce foreign language teacher apathy (to increase their knowledge of advocacy and best foreign language teaching practices)
 - a. Connect with young teachers beginning their careers.
 - b. Help veteran teachers to move towards proficiency based learning so that the world sees student success and progress in the language.
4. Create a plan of action in the time of need (facing the loss of programs).