



Dr. Popp was instrumental in writing the bill that has helped the State implement the Evidence-Based Funding system and new ways for financing education. He proudly shared that in the past six years, West40 has served approximately 25% of the State's students enrolled on March 1 in ROE/ISC Alternative Programs.

Historical Legislative Advocacy Success:

- Increase to the ROE/ISC Services grant
- Partial Restoration of the RSSP grant
- Eligibility to receive ESSER grant
- A share of the County School Facility Occupation Tax appropriated to eligible ROEs

Recent Legislative Advocacy work includes:

- Parity that now allows for ISC to be TRS employers
- Lifted the prohibition of secondary employment of Regional Superintendent
- ROE/ISC IMRF employees now have the same benefit related to sick days as other IMRF employees
- Inclusion to the School Maintenance Project grant
- K-3 ALOP West40 waiver approved

Agenda for future legislative advocacy will include:

- Change the grant formula for Regional Safe School Programs & increase the grant budget allocation for these programs
- Codify ALOP services for K-3
- Establish a commission to recommend the best use of truancy-focused dollars
- ICEARY/Advance Illinois: Increase EBF by \$550M
- ICEARY: Increase TAOEP grant funding
- Allow electronic Transmittal of AFRs
- Process change for School Code Modification applications for organizations without exclusive bargaining agents
- County Schools Facility Tax Statewide (add use to include security and mental health resources) and/or change the process for getting the question to a ballot
- Refine eligibility criteria for Regional Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents
- Seek additional funding for ROE/ISC services
- ROEs/ISCs as perpetual Learning Partners in the Statewide System of Support
- Change to ROE/ISC grant application to align better with requirements of the School Code
- Educator Content Exam -
  - Prospective teachers can now student teach before passing their required educator content exam
  - Only retaking subsections of the test that were previously failed

**Financial Report** - Ms. Christi Tyler

Ms. Tyler reported that the West40 FY 25 fund balance continues to grow; payments were made to Worth and Proviso Township Treasurer's Offices and contractual services invoices continue to offset grant-related work. The fiscal year projections include paying the last TTO payment. Effective January 1, 2025, all business operations will be conducted in house; human resources software licenses, treasurer's bond and banking information will be changed over.

**Assistant Executive Director Report: Dr. Jayme Tighe**

Staff Survey:

Dr. Tighe reported that 220 staff members have completed the staff survey; approximately 94% reported "strongly agreed" to most questions and provided positive feedback on the sense of fulfillment in their role supporting kids. The goal is to repeat the survey during the fall and spring, and compare data.

The Strategic Plan:

During this fiscal year, West40 will address 47 different actions of the strategic plan. The Innovation Team together with the AI Task force, will work to explore and determine how to leverage artificial intelligence across all functions of West40, develop policies and ethics, and provide external and internal training for adult learning and youth engagement. This fiscal year will include planning for years 6 through 10 of the strategic plan by developing a survey and organizing focus groups to gather valuable feedback for shaping those future goals.

Statewide System of Support:

Dr. Tighe continues to work with IASBO, IARSS, ISBE, and IPA to align efforts and share best practices that will maximize the work provided to schools statewide regardless of their designation around school improvement.

**Executive Director Report:- Dr. Mark Klaisner**

Professional Development

Dr. Klaisner shared insights from the various conferences he and the BMV team attended. He reported that approximately a quarter of the workshops were focused on AI-related topics, thus highlighting the need for West40 to deepen its understanding of industry advancements.

Finances

West40 will no longer utilize the Township Treasurer's Office (TTO) for financial operations; the West40 Business Office now has the capacity to manage these tasks internally.

West40 will now operate in a calendar year for Health Benefits.

Professional Learning Department (PL)

In partnership with the West40 Communications Department and the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), the PL team will work to build a library of instructional videos that will

highlight effective instructional practices across grade levels and subjects and will serve as invaluable resources for evaluator training, helping to elevate the quality of teacher evaluations statewide.

#### ALOP services for K-3

Dr. Sanders has considered West40 to be the only office in the state to pilot the K-3 ALOP program; West40 will provide valuable data that will help instruct legislation in the Spring.

A new ALOP director's position has been filled due to the increase in operations.

#### CES

The CES Team has intensified their efforts to proactively identify Compliance and HLS concerns, ensuring sufficient time to address them effectively. Thus far, all HLS visits have been completed; schools are in great shape.

#### St. Joseph

Conducted a site visit with Lurie Children's Hospital staff. The plan is to follow up with the DCFS office to encourage their commitment to supporting the youth in care residential program.

#### Heart 2 Heart Store

Thanks to the efforts of Pam Vujovich, Heart 2 Heart Program Coordinator, the Greater Chicago Food Depository has agreed to establish and supply a food pantry as an extension to St. Joseph's which will serve the community four times a week. Mid January the pantry will be available to students looking for internship opportunities and/or community service.

#### Strategic Plan

West40 remains focused on driving the 47 action items outlined in its strategic plan, drafting goals for years 6 through 10, and committed to supporting initiatives at the local, state, and national levels.

#### **IV. Public Comment:**

No one chose to speak.

**V. Adjourned:** Member Dr. Aldo Calderin moved, seconded by Ms. Dana Wesolowski. Be it resolved, the West40 ISC# 2 Governing Board hereby adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

The next West40 Governing Board Meeting will be held on Friday, January 17, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at 415 Lexington Street, Maywood, IL 60153.