

MINUTES OF THE 2017-2018 GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETING #1

On Tuesday, March 20, 2017 at 4:47 p.m. the initial meeting of the General Conference Committee for the reconciliation of conflicting budget resolutions and bills relating to the 2017-2018 New York State budget was convened at the joint call of Senate Temporary President John J. Flanagan and Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie in the Hamilton Meeting Room of the Legislative Office Building in Albany, New York.

The Members of the General Conference Committee are: Senators John J. Flanagan, Jeffrey D. Klein, John A. DeFrancisco, Catharine M. Young, and Andrea Stewart-Cousins; and Members of the Assembly Carl E. Heastie, Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Joseph D. Morelle, Earlene Hooper, and Brian M. Kolb. Alternate members are: Senators John Bonacic and Liz Krueger, and Members of Assembly Jeffrion L. Aubry and Robert C. Oaks. All Members were present for the meeting.

Senator Flanagan opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked the members of the General Conference Committee for their work and participation in the public process. Senator Flanagan then introduced the members of the Committee on the part of the Senate and made introductory remarks regarding the Senate's budget and the Senate Majority's priorities in regard to the 2017-2018 budget. Following Senator Flanagan's opening remarks, Speaker Heastie then welcomed everyone and made his introductory comments regarding the Assembly's budget and the general budget process. Speaker Heastie proceeded to introduce the members of the Committee on the part of the Assembly and gave an overview of the Assembly Majority's priorities as cemented within the Assembly's budget resolution. Senator Klein was introduced and also made introductory comments about the budget process and the priorities of the Independent Democratic Conference. Member of Assembly Kolb was recognized and made introductory comments about the budget process and addressed the priorities of the Assembly Minority. Senator Stewart-Cousins then was introduced and proceeded to make introductory comments about the budget process. Senator Stewart-Cousins also spoke upon the priorities of the Senate Minority and expressed the Senate Minority's disagreement with the priorities of the Senate Majority and the Independent Democratic Conference.

Speaker Heastie noted that the Senate and Assembly have executed the Joint Certificate calling for the convening of the General Conference Committee and subcommittees to discuss the differences in the budget plans adopted by both houses. Copies of the Joint Certificate were filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the Assembly.

Senator Flanagan announced the appointment of Jonathan Federman as co-secretary to the conference committee on the part of the Senate. Speaker Heastie announced the appointment of David Mushett as co-secretary to the conference committee on the part of the Assembly.

Speaker Heastie announced that the conferences had appointed representatives to the various, previously announced, subcommittees.

Senator Flanagan announced that the General Conference Committee will meet as needed.

Senator Klein announced the schedule for the various subcommittee meetings which would be following immediately after the General Conference Committee.

Speaker Heastie declared the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Federman
David Mushett