

Education Committee Report, December 2024

Denise Gaumer Hutchison, Chair

The Education Committee met on Thursday, November 21, from 3:30-5:00 via Zoom. The committee discussed the election results, focusing on the 120 statewide public school referendum efforts. 78% of the referenda statewide passed, which assists the public schools in keeping the doors open and making much needed repairs and addressing building needs, since the state of Wisconsin legislature has chosen not to financially support public schools with much needed actual, spendable funds.

Then we discussed the new Josh Cowen book, *The Privateers*. The committee was encouraged to read the book; we'll address many of the questions around privatization in upcoming months. There were some other book suggestions, including one by Dan Powers, Door County LWV member, entitled *Stienboek*. It is a fictional account of the conflict in a community – and particularly in a public school district – during the 2012-13 school year, when Act 10 became law. Jean Marsch and Lynn Gerlach are reading it now. We will all wait for a report, or we'll get the book and discuss it as a group.

The next meeting, on December 19, 3:30-5:00 p.m. via Zoom, will address what is going on with DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) and Title IX (sex and gender issues in schools). Dotty has provided us with lots of information to build a great conversation. Please join us.