

**Alliance for High Quality Education  
Education Advisory Committee**

A meeting of the Education Advisory Committee was held on Monday, December 4, 2017, in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235. The meeting convened at 10:07 a.m.

The following individuals were in attendance:

- Rep. Andrew Brenner, Chairman, House Education & Career Readiness Committee
- Allison Lawler, Legislative Aide to Rep. Brenner
- Brenda Boeke, Minster Local Schools
- Rick Edwards, Athens-Meigs County ESC
- Shelly Vaughn, Mercer County ESC
- Anthony Podojil, Executive Director, AHQE
- Mike Dovilla, Legislative Consultant, AHQE
- Patricia Cali, Executive Assistant, AHQE

Chairman Brenner opened by offering remarks on the 2017 National Summit on Education Reform (*ExcelinEd*), which he recently attended in Nashville. The conference drew more than 1,200 participants, including a sizable Ohio delegation featuring Sen. Lehner, Reps. Cupp and Hambley, and several ODE representatives. The Chairman observed there seems to be a national consensus developing around the idea that there is too much testing.

The Advisory Committee and Chairman Brenner had a discussion on a number of pending policy issues. The conference committee report on S.B. 8 (Gardner) has now been passed by both houses of the General Assembly and is on its way to the governor for signature. It appears items included were pre-negotiated with the administration, so vetoes are not anticipated. Among the amendments included in the final bill are provisions to modify: tangible personal property tax reimbursement payments for the FY18-19 budget; College Credit Plus; applied bachelor's degrees; and STRS/SERS retirement systems.

The House Education Committee recently accepted an amendment that made two changes to H.B. 200 (Koehler), the proposed voucher expansion bill. The amendment eliminated education savings accounts and lowered the income threshold from 400 percent to 300 percent of poverty; discussion is ongoing possibly to lower the limit to 250 percent. The Chairman asked for the opinion of the Advisory Committee on the possible inclusion of fair funding language as a trade-off, and members had a discussion. He indicated more broadly that the bill does not currently have the votes to be reported out of the Committee.

The Chairman asked the Advisory Committee whether a shift to public universities serving as charter school sponsors would be better than the current arrangement. Members expressed reservations with such an approach due to limited higher education capacity to engage in this oversight.

S.B. 216 (Huffman, M.), school deregulation legislation, remains in the Senate Education Committee for consideration. If the Senate passes this legislation and it comes to the House, the

Chairman indicated he would consider using it as a vehicle for other education policy provisions. Advisory Committee members shared their preference for the bill to move expeditiously for implementation of some provisions during the 2018-2019 school year, rather than accepting changes which could slow its final passage. A number of questions remain on licensure (banding), kindergarten readiness assessments, and other items.

With respect to H.B. 360 (Greenspan), the House Education Committee has had two hearings with plans for opponent testimony the week of December 11. The sponsor is requesting prompt action, but the Chairman has indicated the bill needs more time for review by legislators. The Committee has adopted a substitute bill, which addressed some of the concerns voiced by DRC, DYS, and other stakeholders (including the addition of more state regulations, zero-tolerance policies, and penalties that do not address the root cause of these challenges). Advisory Committee members observed the bill, even as amended, while well-intentioned, is not good public policy.

Looking ahead, the Chairman indicated the Speaker has released the House session schedule for the first half of 2018. There are more session days and reserved days for committee meetings than he had anticipated, which will provide additional opportunities for legislative action. He expressed concern that it has been challenging to get a committee quorum in recent weeks.

In terms of updates, the Chairman mentioned he is drafting a pair of bills. One measure would codify policy the State Board of Education adopted with respect to a 35-point system for high school graduation (25 points for testing and 10 points for alternative pathways). The Advisory Committee had a discussion on the legislation and indicated a preference for graduation requirements with one-third test results, one-third course work, and one-third attributes (intangible or quantifiable).

The other bill would change district report cards, eliminating the composite letter grade and making other simplifications to the system. The objective would be to introduce both measures early in 2018 and possibly amend them into S.B. 216, if it becomes a vehicle for education policy reforms in the second year of the 132<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Both bills would impact the ESSA plan ODE sent to the U.S. Department of Education.

Under new business, the Chairman shared he is contemplating a provision of law that would provide legislators access to state testing questions. He is considering another bill related to student data privacy, a draft of which he shared with Advisory Committee members for review.

The Chairman announced there will be meetings of the EMIS advisory board (10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.) and JEOC (1:30-3:30 p.m.) on December 20, for those who may be interested in attending.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2018, at the AHQE offices.

Whereupon, at 11:44 a.m., the meeting adjourned.