

Alliance for High Quality Education Education Advisory Committee

A meeting of the Education Advisory Committee was held on Monday, October 9, 2017, at the Olentangy Local School District's board office in Lewis Center, Ohio. The meeting convened at 10:08 a.m.

The following individuals were in attendance:

- Rep. Andrew Brenner, Chairman, House Education & Career Readiness Committee
- Anthony Podojil, Executive Director, AHQE
- Mike Dovilla, Legislative Consultant, AHQE
- Chad Hilliker, Hamilton County ESC

The Advisory Committee and Chairman Brenner had a discussion on a number of pending policy issues. With respect to S.B. 8, the Chairman indicated he had not heard anything about its use as a legislative vehicle for additional education matters. He indicated Senator Lehner may wish to do so. Tony Podojil reiterated the importance of restoring TPP funding and a more gradual run-out period ($\frac{1}{4}$ mill), as well as fair funding language for the next biennial operating budget.

House Bill 102, Rep. Brenner's legislation to centralize school funding, remains in the House Finance Committee, where it has had one hearing. He does not anticipate it will receive additional hearings.

The Advisory Committee discussed the State Report Card's "Value-Added" student growth measure. All agreed this metric provides such little margin for growth that it is not a useful mechanism for measuring districts. More broadly, the entire report card with its current letter grade marks does not seem provide a meaningful construct for evaluating district performance.

Chairman Brenner indicated the State Board of Education continues to discuss the new gifted operating standards. The Advisory Committee pointed out continuing challenges in implementation, particularly with respect to the required professional development hours.

With regard to ESSA, once the U.S. Department of Education (USDoEd) determines its response to the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) application, the Legislature will begin discussion of potential action.

In terms of pending legislation, the Common Core repeal bills remain in the House Education Committee. Reps. Hood and Brinkman reportedly have no interest in compromising on H.B. 181. Rep. Thompson remains interested in the Massachusetts standards contained in H.B. 176. Chairman Brenner plans to hold additional hearings, inviting opponent and interested party testimony. H.B. 200 (Koehler), legislation to expand vouchers statewide, will have its sixth hearing this week (all testimony). The bill may be voted out of the committee and potentially the full House, but the Chairman does not expect the Senate will act on it.

Other legislation pending in the House Education and Career Readiness Committee:

- H.B. 318 (Patterson/LaTourette) to set standards for school resource officers will have its first hearing this week;
- H.B. 338 (Ginter) regarding medical examinations for school bus drivers, will have its next hearing this week; and
- H.B. 98 (Duffey/Boggs), regarding presentation of career information to students, will have its fourth hearing.

Chairman Brenner believes H.B. 58, his legislation to require cursive writing in schools, may be brought for a vote by the full House in the near future. He anticipates discussion in caucus as early as this week.

A couple of new bills may be introduced soon. RESA is among the possible subject matter.

In terms of House session days, there is a limited schedule in the offing for the remainder of the year. The Chairman is experiencing challenges getting members to attend committee hearings during weeks the House is not in session. He is considering field hearings around the state (possibly Cleveland, Lorain, and/or Youngstown) to help address this.

Tony Podojil mentioned residual concerns with the implementation of 131-H.B. 410 and requested that once USDoEd acts on ODE's ESSA application the Legislature revisit attendance policy. The issue is particularly thorny due to the tracking of hourly online attendance and potential discrepancies between how public schools and schools like ECOT do so.

In addition, Tony Podojil reminded the Chairman that high school graduation requirements for the Class of 2019, which continue to be discussed by the State Board, remain of interest to Alliance members.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 6, 2017, at the AHQE offices.

Whereupon, at 11:28 a.m., the meeting adjourned.