

**ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE/SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**January 8, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance via phone conference call: Thomas Tucker, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Greg Slemmons, Todd Yohey, Francis Scruci, Karen Mantia, Jenni Logan, John Marschhausen, Cathy Aukerman, Russ Bennett, Bob Hunt, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives

A. Administration.

1. Mid-Biennium Budget Review

As was indicated during our last meeting, the Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR) bill is to be released sometime in February. Based on conversations with members of the Governor's team, it appears that the policy changes being considered will be minor compared to what was sought two years ago.

B. Legislative Updates

1. SB 229 – OTES

The advisory listing the talking points to share with legislators was sent to all members following our meeting in December. A follow-up will be sent out in January as the discussion begins to take place in the House Education Committee.

2. HB 193 – Graduation Requirements

HB193 has passed the House with many of the major changes proposed by the educational community included. It will now move to the Senate. Members are asked to make contacts with their Senators so that they can become informed and aware of the support behind those changes.

C. Ohio Department of Education

1. State Superintendent – Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Dr. Ross has indicated he is willing to consider, on a case by case basis, modifications to the third grade reading requirements. Any member interested is encouraged to consider this option.

The committee went on to discuss several areas of the guarantee where modifications should be considered. Those included licensure requirements, reconsideration of the elimination of the fall state testing requirement, the need for professional development to bring all K-3 teachers up to reading instruction standards and more flexibility in addressing short and long term remediation strategies other than retention.

II. **Legislative Strategies.**

A. **Foundation Formula**

During conversations with the budget director, the state minimum share was mentioned during discussions about our request for a minimum per pupil funding level at no less than the State's administrative and auxiliary services payments to chartered non-public schools. It appears we have made progress in selling that concept, but finding an acceptable way to move that to a budgetary level has been difficult.

Tony and Jim presented the committee with the following concept: rather than a specific dollar amount, changing the minimum state share from 5% to 20% would accomplish the same fiscal outcome. Twenty per cent would be equal to or be slightly greater than the overall administrative/auxiliary services total. A suggested phase-in of 5% per year could move districts eventually to the target percentage.

In general, the committee was supportive of this concept. Tony indicated he would add this to the Executive Committee Agenda for discussion when they meet on January 22.

B. **Dual Credit Option – Funding Rules**

The committee spent several minutes discussing the financial impact that the new dual-enrollment rules will have on their districts. There was agreement that the new rules heavily favor higher education and are a financial disincentive for districts to move students into those programs. During the meeting with the budget director, we discussed finding a way to weight these students differently from the regular student population (1.25). This would increase the funding tied to those students, but with caps in place and guarantees, new funding would not flow to those districts unless those students were counted below the line.

C. **TPP Strategy – Next Budget**

While the next biennium budget dialogue will not occur until next year, we should use the intervening time to discuss and finalize a strategy to address TPP reimbursement in that budget. All indications from the budget office would indicate that these funds, along with the guarantees, are targeted for eventual elimination.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **House**

Member contacts to legislators should focus on the pending legislative initiatives indicated below.

1. Feedback on SB 229 OTES
2. Feedback on HB 193 Graduation Requirements.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **February 12th** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference if needed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.