

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

**January 14, 2015
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance: Andy Culp, Jeff Brown, Andrew Geistfeld, Phillip Herman, Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Greg Slemons, Karen Mantia, Jenni Logan, Tony Podojil, and Barbara Adams.

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

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives.

A. Administration

1. Biennium Budget

Tony Podojil provided the committee with a projected timeline for release of the biennium budget and those items we would like addressed in the foundation formula: the establishment of a minimum funding level equal to the amount afforded private and parochial schools, the continued reimbursements for tangible personal property losses, maintaining guaranteed funding levels and the removal of caps.

He also distributed an article from Rep. Smith on transportation funding in the formula and the possibility of having that removed and funded outside of the formula. The committee discussed the possible ramifications of such a move and raised the question of how this would be funded if there were not a significant increase to total education funding in the budget.

With the expected release to be sometime in early to mid-February, our next meeting will be focused on reacting to the budget proposal and beginning to develop specific strategies for our discussions with House and Senate members.

B. House Education Committee

1. Chair, Committee Roster

Representative Hayes was appointed to be the Chair of the House Education Committee with Representative Brenner as the Vice Chair and Representative Phillips as the Ranking Minority member. The remaining members to the committee have not yet been assigned.

We have already made contact with Rep. Hayes and are in the process of putting together a superintendent advisory group made up of both Alliance and non-Alliance members. This will allow for some direct contact with the chair throughout the budget discussion and beyond.

C. **Senate Education Committee**

1. **Chair, Committee Roster**

At the time of this meeting, the leadership positions for the Senate Education Committee had not yet been assigned.

D. **Ohio Department of Education**

1. **State Testing - PARCC**

The Alliance Accountability task group met with representatives of PARCC in November to learn more about some of the issues facing the release of the spring test. It would appear from conversations with several state legislators that there may be a move to postpone, delay or eliminate PARCC from the testing program. This will be an area that we will closely monitor in the coming months.

2. **ODE Testing Study - 1/15/15**

Tony Podojil indicated that the department had reached out for input on the testing reduction report they were putting together at the request of legislators. That meeting was attended by Paul, Jim and Tony in December. Concerns were expressed in terms of the potential impact on local testing if reductions that are mandated would impact diagnostic assessments. The committee agreed with that position. The report is slated to be released this week and will be discussed first in the accountability committee when they meet on 1/21/15.

3. **College credit Plus - Meeting w/Dept. and Board of Regents**

A meeting with State Superintendent Richard Ross, his staff and the Board of Regents is in the planning stages. We are currently in the process of getting a date and time for that meeting.

4. **Deregulation Suggestions - Meeting w/Dept. Staff, Dr. Ross**

A meeting with State Superintendent Richard Ross is scheduled for 1/23/15 at 1:00 PM to discuss the list of items we presented in the fall regarding possible items to include in regulatory relief legislation.

II. **Legislative Strategies.**

A. **Foundation Formula**

The Alliance's position on a minimum funding level, equal to or greater than the level afforded private and parochial schools, appears to be making headway based on our discussions with the budget director and members of the legislature. If this concept does not find its way into the biennium budget proposal, we will make every effort to insert it in either the House or Senate version.

B. **Regulatory Relief**

The committee reviewed the initial and revised document that outlined Alliance positions to provide regulatory relief for public schools. Given the

statements made by Senate President Faber to the full Senate expressing his support of deregulating public schools, it appears we can expect some constructive discussion on this topic before the budget is adopted. We will need to be prepared to respond and provide feedback as that unfolds.

C. **College Credit Plus**

A meeting with State Superintendent Richard Ross and the Board of Regents with the Alliance was suggested by the staff at ODE and is in the process of being scheduled.

D. **State Testing/Accountability**

Once the ODE testing study is released this week, the Accountability Committee will meet next week to begin to review and react to the document.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Planning - 2015**

The meeting calendar for the year was distributed. We will continue to plan to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, with the realization that additional meetings, either in person or by phone conference, may be necessary pending input needed during the budget deliberations.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **February 11th** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference, if needed, and pending the release of the state biennium budget from the Governor's office.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.