

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

**October 7, 2015
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance on phone conference: Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Jim Fritz, Karen Mantia, Todd Yohey, Matt Montgomery, Andy Hill, Cathy Aukerman, Jeff Brown, Mike Sobul, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

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

I. Review of the Budget Process.

A. Issues.

1. TPP – Governor’s Veto

Jim opened the meeting by reviewing an expected response from the House in the form of a new bill that would address the Governor’s veto. Beth Weber indicated that she had been in touch with their representative who indicated that Rep. Amstutz was close to introducing a bill. The contents of that bill are not known at this time, but we expect it will contain Rep. Cupp’s concept to change the reduction factor from a percentage of income to a specified fraction of a mill of property taxation.

A meeting was held with CFFO and the education organizations in which the off-set concept has been discussed in detail. Whether this proposal can gather the support of membership of those organizations will be determined once those groups have had an opportunity to meet with their respective legislative committees.

Once we determine what is in the bill Rep. Amstutz is considering, we will send that to members for their review and feedback. Hopefully, that information will be made available by the end of the week.

2. State Achievement Testing

Jim provided the committee with an update of the work being done with Rep. Hayes as we move forward with the testing program. One of the issues still left unresolved, and of concern for many members, is the possibility of hold harmless language for districts for school year 2014-15.

Jim has been working with Upper Arlington on a letter to be sent to members of the House and Senate that we would like to share with members for input, as well as possibly being a signor of the document.

3. HB 2 – Charter School Reform

With the passage of HB 2, some highly debated and much needed charter school reforms have now passed the General Assembly and been sent to the Governor for his signature.

4. **College Credit Plus**

One of the issues being explored by the group working with Rep. Hayes involves the costs associated with books and supplies now being paid by districts under the new program, along with tuition costs. We are finding, that in most cases, the cost of the textbooks and supplies far exceed the cost for tuition. The group is hoping to provide enough information to Rep. Hayes to convince him and his colleagues that parents should assume the burden of paying those costs, with a means test for those who cannot afford them.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Conference Call**

Depending on what progress is made in regard to the TPP initiative, we may need to conduct a conference call outside of our normal scheduled monthly meeting. We will let you know.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting is still to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.