

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

December 14, 2016

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on phone conference: Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Andy Hill, Cathy Aukerman, Todd Puster, Andy Culp, Jim Fritz, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams. Also, members of the House Education Advisory Committee who participated on the call included Brenda Boeke, Tom Hosler, Brian Poe, Mary Ronin and Dave Toth

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

I. Legislative Update.

A. Lame Duck Session

1. HB410 Truancy

Jim began the meeting by reviewing the debate that led up to the final version of the bill as it moved through the Senate Education Committee. While we were able to gather support in an amendment, which passed establishing, a threshold that would exempt districts whose chronic absenteeism rate was less than 10%. We saw that level changed to 5% in the final. In addition, the calculation regarding chronic absenteeism still includes both excused and unexcused absences. In addition, districts must still follow the new reporting deadlines (60 days) when filing truancy charges against students in juvenile court.

We are researching to determine if a change in the calculations can be done through the department during their rule making process or if we will need to try to have this modified through the legislative budget process.

2. SB3

Jim informed the committee that SB3, after having several other bills and an amendment added, finally passed out of the House Education Committee and has been approved by both the House and Senate. The original purpose of the bill was to provide regulatory relief to high performing districts. It looks like the only provision related to regulatory relief was an exemption permitting districts to employ unlicensed teachers as long as they have experience qualifying them to teach that position and that they have completed a background check.

Several of the highlights in the bill-included limiting test administration time to 2%, reinstating the fall administration of the third grade English language arts assessment, creating exemptions to the college and career readiness assessments for students with special needs, modifying scoring levels for high school substitute end-of-course exams, using career based-pathway mathematics course as fulfillment

of the Algebra II credit for career-technical education students and creating alternative measures of career-technical attainment.

There were also several changes to the teacher licensure and evaluations affecting career-technical licensure as well as a provision permitting districts to forgo conducting teacher evaluations for teachers participating in the Ohio Teacher Residency Program for the year during which those teachers take the majority of the required performance-based assessment for resident educators.

We will need to take a more detailed and focused look at the provisions in the bill once we have had an opportunity to read the amendments.

3. College Credit Plus

Both bills under consideration, HB445 and HB474 were not passed out of committee and therefore did not make their way through the lame duck session. Apparently, there were too many items that still needed to be worked out and they felt there was not enough time to accomplish that. This means we may see these proposals as part of the budget as policy considerations. We will need to be prepared to respond at the time.

4. SB235 – Property Tax

The concern in terms of the original bill was that property owners would be able to request a tax exemption without having to seek approval from the local taxing authorities. An amendment to the bill removed the provision that automatically grants the exemption to any qualifying owner who applies for the exemption, and instead requires that local governments approve each exemption and that school boards be notified. In addition, it specifies that, if a parcel is already subject to a TIF, the property owner who wishes to receive the bill's exemption must apply to the local government that approved the TIF.

5. HB628 – School Funding

As he has promised, Representative Brenner released his bill addressing school finance. The bill would dramatically change how schools are both funded and how tax dollars are collected and distributed. He indicated to us that he did not think this would gain much support and that was why he released at the end of the session knowing it would not be carried over into the next session. His goal was to begin a broader discussion on how schools are funded and the possibilities for changes to the system.

B. **Biennium Budget**

1. **Fair Funding, TPP, Guarantees, Caps**

We have begun our work in preparation for the upcoming budget, which is due to be released by the Governor's office by the end of January. As you may have read, the budget office is already sounding the alarm on the current fiscal status, which shows revenue projections lower than expected. This will have ramifications for the next budget that may result in reductions rather than additions to the overall budget.

We are working with several groups on our major initiatives including the fair funding concept, TPP reimbursements; maintain guarantees and the removal of caps. At the present, we are working to communicate with the budget office and those in leadership in both the House and the Senate. We will let members know it would be appropriate to begin contact legislative members in relation to these topics in terms of asking for a commitment for their support. More to follow the first of the year.

C. **Ohio Department of Education**

1. **High School Graduation Requirements**

The State Board decided to table the discussion on making changes to the point requirements and in turn, set up a study committee to review the issue with a report back to the full board in April. The boards rational for delay action at this time were because the majority felt they needed more information before they could make an informed decision.

2. **Gifted Operating Standards**

The State Board passed the revisions to the Gifted Operating Standards at their December meeting. Significant changes have been made to the operating standards as well as the requirements for professional development for those serving that population. Once we have had an opportunity to review all the changes, we will have a better idea on the impact these will have locally.

3. **ESSA**

We are anticipating that the next step in our review and input process will occur once the department has released the draft of its application to the feds. Once that occurs, that will allow us to see how much of the input they received has made its way into the application. The state superintendent has set a March deadline for submission. We hope to see the application in early January. It may also be added to the state budget.

II. **Legislative Strategies**

A. Governor's Office/Budget Director

We hope to meet with the budget director this month to discuss their priorities and once again present our positions on TPP, fair funding, guarantees and caps.

B. House/Senate Leadership

Similar to the strategies associated with the governor's office, we will be meeting with key House/Senate leaders prior to the release of the budget bill to determine where they may stand on our budget priorities.

C. State Board/ODE Staff

We will continue to monitor the discussion around the high school graduation changes as the task force begins to meet in anticipation of their report back to the state board in April.

III. **Next Steps**

A. Contacting Legislators.

We will provide districts with talking points to use with legislators once the budget deliberations begin.

B. Fair Funding Coalition

A coalition of 27 districts, mostly made up of Alliance members, has been meeting to develop a specific lobby strategy around the fair funding idea. We are working in concert with that group in an effort to leverage our resources and coordinate our efforts in terms of our other budget priorities.

C. TPP Coalition

We are continuing our work with the TPP coalition in an effort to find a solution that will mitigate that run-out of the TPP funds based on the formula that is currently in law.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **January 11, 10:00 AM by phone conference if necessary.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.