

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

**February 14, 2018
11:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance on phone conference: Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Todd Puster, Phillip Herman, Bill Porter, Joe Spiccia, Brian Wilson, Jennie Logan, Mike Dovilla and Tony Podojil.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 11:00 a.m.

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives

A. House School Finance Task Force

Jennie Logan provided the committee with an overview of the work done by the House School Finance Task Force. They have been meeting since January and several subcommittees have been established to work on specific areas of school finance. Of particular interest to the Alliance is the work being done in the Base Cost and Distribution subcommittees. Jennie pointed out that the Base Cost Committee has recommended that the base cost formula be focused on inputs rather than a performance/achievement.

The committee has a deadline to provide a final report by June of this year. They intend to turn their work over to the next Governor in order to begin a dialogue prior to the release of the next biennium budget. Tony indicated that he has been attending the Base Cost and Distribution subcommittee meetings and has been offering feedback to that group. Tom Hosler is the co-chair of the Base Cost Committee and Mike Hanlon is the co-chair of the Distribution group. Those groups meet again on March 1.

Members of the committee asked that any information or reports shared at the full or subcommittee levels be shared. Tony indicated he would follow through and send that information to members following the meeting.

B. ESSA

1. Application Approved

With the application approval from the federal government not complete, the department will begin the implementation of the changes in Ohio's ESSA plan. While we anticipate, this occurring over the next several months, it appears that the House Education Committee will conduct their own review of the document, which may give us an opportunity to seek some of the changes we initially sought but were unable to get into the application. We will continue to monitor this area going forward and will be discussing this with Rep. Brenner when we meet with his Advisory Committee on March 12.

C. High School Graduation Requirements

The State Board has not yet determined to extend the alternative graduation pathways past the class of 2019. In addition, we are anticipating the Rep. Brenner is working on his own version of graduation requirement changes that we expect to see shortly. Once that occurs, we can discuss with the committee and determine next steps.

D. Gifted Operating Standards – Rule Changes Proposed

Tony indicated that he has been working with Ann Sheldon (Gifted Lobby) and Tom Ash (BASA) in an attempt to propose changes to the 60-hour professional development requirement. Based on those conversations, the final proposal shared with ODE would:

Lengthen the number of years required to meet the 60-hour professional development standard from two to four,

Give professional development credit to AP and IB programs for up to 30 hours for those teachers who have earned that endorsement and

Allow districts to receive credit for servicing students once they enter the training process.

The amendment voted on in SB216 sets the above provisions in temporary language pending the State Board's approval of the changes. At the State Board's meeting this month, the Standards voted to place the changes on the committee agenda for consideration when they meet again in March. If that committee approves the changes when they meet in March, it will go to the full board for a final approval in April. If the board fails to act, the provisions in HB216 would take effect if passed by the General Assembly.

Regardless to the timeline above, Tony indicated it would not be prudent for districts to change what they are currently doing in case the above does not come to fruition and/or the discussion and final vote in HB216 does not occur until late in the calendar year. Getting the State Board to make these changes during this school year is critical to having any practical impact on the 60-hour requirement.

E. Department of Learning and Achievement – House Reorganization Proposal

Prior to the meeting, a press conference was held at the statehouse that rolled out a proposal by Rep. Reineke that would make major changes to the decision making and leadership structure involving the State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education. Tony indicated he would send the press release and summary of the bill that has yet to be named. He asked that members review the document and be prepared to offer feedback to the group as the Alliance begins to formulate its response in the coming weeks.

II. Legislative Strategies

A. House Education Committee – Brenner

1. HB360 – Bullying

At the meeting of Rep. Brenner's Advisory Committee, it was shared that based on feedback generated during an interested party meeting, many of the major provisions of HB360 are going to be changed from "shall" to "may" thereby allowing districts to choose whether to add these new provisions to their district policies. If that occurs, the major issues associated with this bill, including how to address the victim provisions, will be significantly reduced.

2. HB343 - Property Reevaluation Challenges

This bill is moving on to the Senate for concurrence. We will need to address our concerns with our Senators and try to influence the Senate Education Committee to either

kill the bill or alter it significantly. We will continue to work with the organizations in opposition to this bill.

3. State Report Card Changes

Based on conversations we have had with several House Representatives (Duffy and Brenner), we are anticipating a release of several proposals that would alter the make-up and design of the State Report Card. Once those have been released, we will have the Accountability Committee begin to review the proposals in order to determine how we should respond.

B. Senate Education Committee - Lehner

1. SB216

Besides the amendment dealing with the Gifted Professional Development rule changes, the Senate Education committee further amended SB216 by withdrawing the KRA changes asked for in the bill. In return, the department has indicated that they would conduct a study to determine how best to collect preschool data and determine what flexibility it can afford districts going forward.

In terms of a timeline regarding a vote on the bill, that has yet to be determined. Based on the discussion at the last hearing on the bill there are still questions regarding the licensure bands as well as other provisions in the bill that would indicate it could remain in committee for some time. We would not be surprised to see this carried over into the fall and become part of the lame duck session following the elections in November.

III. Next Steps

A. Regional Meetings

Regional Meetings are scheduled for late February and early March. Feedback on the above items will be sought by membership as we begin to put together our strategies regarding these issues.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **March 14, 10:00 AM by phone conference if necessary.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.