

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

**March 12, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance via phone conference call: Thomas Tucker, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Greg Slemons, Francis Scruci, Jeff Brown, Tim Pickana, Andy Geistfeld, 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

With the recent release of the mid-biennium budget in hand, the committee directed the majority of its discussion to the dual-credit recommendations that appeared in the MBR. After a lengthy discussion, the committee concentrated on two areas of primary interest – licensure of current high school staff for the dual-credit option and the methods used to finance the program.

Several recommendations resulted from those discussions including: expanding licensure to include those teachers certified in AP and IB; allowing more open negotiations between public school districts and universities when establishing the costs associated with the program instead of the minimums and maximums included in the Board of Regents' recommendations; and asking parents to pick up the costs for the program if they are not currently identified in accordance with the rules associated with economically disadvantaged students.

A set of talking points were to be developed and sent to members of the committee for their review with the goal of having the talking points sent to all members early next week. With the recommendations being included in the MBR, the timeframe for providing feedback to legislators will be short unless we can get the provision removed from the MBR and discussed on its own in a separate bill.

B. Legislative Updates

1. H. B. 228 – School Funding (Brenner)

Currently, H. B. 228 is in the House Education Committee and has had an initial hearing and one follow-up meeting. We have spoken to Representative Brenner about the bill and have suggested that he consider using a percentage rather than a fixed cost when determining a minimum funding level. He was open to that suggestion. He also indicated that he would try to have H. B. 228 included in the MBR; otherwise, he would need some help to move it out of his committee.

We will continue to work with him as this bill moves through the committee.

2. **S. B. 229 – OTES**

There has been very little discussion on S. B. 229 on the House side, and no indication if it would be included on the House Education Committee agenda or become part of the MBR. Colleen Grady has been the point person on this topic and we will follow up with her next week to get an assessment on where this bill may be going.

C. **Ohio Department of Education**

Bob Lee, Kenston Superintendent and member of the Executive Committee, notified the Executive Committee that his scheduled presentation to the State Board of Education on value-added had been cancelled. He was told by the Department that the State Board was not interested in any further discussion on this topic.

II. **Legislative Strategies.**

A. **Mid-Biennium Review**

Dual-credit, a minimum foundation funding level and changes to OTES will be important topics to monitor as the MBR moves forward.

B. **Dual Credit Option – Talking Points**

Talking points focusing on teacher qualifications, the impact on AP and IB programs and the manner in which the program is funded will be developed and sent to committee members for their review before distribution to Alliance members.

C. **Calamity Days**

The House/Senate Conference committee has voted on a compromise report that would allow districts four additional days after they used four of their planned contingency days either through make-up days, blizzard bags or by adding time to their regularly scheduled school day.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **House/Senate**

The House will begin taking up the MBR next week. We will need to monitor in what committees the various parts of the MBR will be heard so that we can prepare for testimony, if necessary.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **April 9** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.