

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

**March 11, 2015
11:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance: Catherine Aukerman, Andy Culp, Jeff Brown, Brian Wilson, Phillip Herman, Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Greg Slemmons, Mike Laub, Jenni Logan, Jim Fritz, Todd Yohey, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 11:00 a.m. due to a change in scheduled hearings and testimony at the Statehouse.

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives.

A. Administration

1. Biennium Budget

Jim spent some time reviewing the current political landscape in the House and Senate regarding the Governor's budget. An apparent lack of support for the Governor's proposals for the foundation formula will necessitate the House developing its own version in a substitute bill. The Alliance has suggested to legislators that they return to the current formula as a starting point before they make any adjustments. It may not be until late March or early April before we see the House's version.

In addition, the committee was updated on the strategies being used to reach out to key members of the legislature, especially those in leadership positions. Key topics in discussions with legislators continue to be the need for a new minimum funding level, retention of guarantees and tangible personal property reimbursements, the cost of transfers from districts to community/charter school programs, and the new College Credit Plus program. In light of the sensitivity of the discussions involving a funding minimum and TPP reimbursements, Jim indicated that the timing of when to introduce and how and where to introduce those subjects is still being formulated.

The committee discussed several methods for reaching out to their legislators. Jim pointed out that, while it is important to inform them of the impact the Governor's proposal is having on their districts, they should also encourage their legislators to carry that message to the Caucus and, in particular, those in leadership. Building a coalition of support in the House is going to be critical if the changes we are advocating are to be included in the House's final version.

B. House Education Committee

1. HB 74 – State Testing Requirements

Members of Representative Hayes' superintendent advisory group provided testimony to the House Education Committee on March 15th. The testimony included recommendations to use of frequently

administered diagnostic assessments to replace some of the state mandated standardized testing, to separate value-added data from the OTEs system and to reduce the resident educator program from four years to two years. Testimony will continue next week when the education organizations are scheduled to testify.

C. **Senate Education Committee**

1. **SB 3 – School Deregulation**

Senators Hite’s and Faber’s SB 7, which incorporates many of the ideas related to deregulation that we shared with Senate President Faber when the Alliance met with him in December, continues to be heard in the Senate Education Committee. We will be following this bill through the committee hearings and expect it to be voted out of the committee. Since President Faber is a co-sponsor to the bill, there is a high likelihood it will pass the Senate.

D. **Ohio Department of Education**

1. **College Credit Plus – Meeting With Department and Board of Regents**

We are still waiting to set up a meeting with State Superintendent Richard Ross, his staff and the Board of Regents. With the budget and the testing issues presently occupying the attention of ODE staff, it is unlikely the meeting will occur soon.

II. **Legislative Strategies.**

A. **Talking Points**

Jim and Tony are putting together a set of talking points regarding the Governor’s budget for distribution to all Alliance members and members. As in past budget processes, we anticipate that the House leadership will present their own version of the budget shortly. Once that occurs, we will need to meet to discuss how those changes impact members differently and develop appropriate modifications to our talking points.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Conference Call**

If the House releases its version of the state funding model prior to our next regularly scheduled meeting, we will set a date and time to meet by phone conference.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **April 8** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference if needed and pending the release of the House’s version of the state budget.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.