

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

May 13, 2015

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance: Brian Wilson, Phillip Herman, Beth Weber, Greg Slemons, Mike Laub, Jenni Logan, Jim Fritz, Andy Hill, John Marchausen, Todd Yohey, Karen Mantia, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

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

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives

A. Administration

1. Biennium Budget

Jim opened the meeting by reviewing the anticipated time frame for the Senate to introduce its version of the budget. A tentative schedule calls for a floor vote during the week of June 8th, with amendments due the week of the 25th. We have heard several times that the Senate intends to craft its own substitute bill and use the current formula as the basis for developing its spreadsheet projections.

In addition, the committee was updated on the testimony currently being delivered to the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Education, changes made to the Governor's budget proposal by the House, including the reestablishment of guarantees, the creation of a minimum per pupil funding level of 20% of the base funding amount, and the hold harmless language for TPP were endorsed as items for the Senate to consider in its proposal.

With regard to TPP, questions about what will happen after this budget were discussed in detail. Getting the Senate to address this issue is critical to those districts heavily reliant on TPP funds, otherwise they could face a substantial reduction in 2018. The Alliance has studied the offset language contained in the House version and the additional funding available above the cap as a way to move more TPP liability over to the formula. This would provide a permanent fix for some districts but would not solve the problem for all. If we can get legislators to support further TPP reductions resulting from corresponding offset funds from above the cap, we may have an opportunity to establish a long-range fix. Beth Weber shared a conversation with Sycamore's Senator whose message was that districts should not count on TPP reimbursements beyond 2019.

B. House Education Committee and SB 3

1. HB74 – State Testing Requirements

Jim brought the committee up to speed on what has been occurring in the House regarding HB 74. That bill now goes over to the Senate for consideration. With the work of the Senate Testing Committee complete, efforts will be made to incorporate those concepts with the content of bills being heard in both chambers, HB 74 and SB 3. We anticipate that this work will be completed before legislators leave in June. Timing is critical since planning for the testing program for next year needs to begin as soon as possible.

C. Senate Education Committee

1. SB 3 – School Deregulation

SB 3 is now moving over to the House Education Committee for consideration. Jim indicated that we should be prepared to testify in front of that group in support of the bill. We will be contacting those individuals who testified in the Senate for a return engagement in the House.

II. Legislative Strategies

A. Talking Points

The talking points developed earlier in our deliberations are still relevant as we move to the Senate. The changes made to TPP by the House do not go far enough and must be modified by the Senate or the problem discussed above will persist beyond this budget cycle.

III. Next Steps

A. Conference Call

If the Senate releases its version of the state funding model prior to our next regularly scheduled meeting, a date will be set for a phone conference to review the proposal.

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **June 10th** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference if needed following the release of the Senate's version of the state budget.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.