

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

**June 11, 2014
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance via phone conference: Thomas Tucker, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, John Marschhausen, Russ Bennett, 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. MBR – H. B. 487

Tony and Jim led the committee in a discussion regarding the conference committee version of H. B. 487 passed by both the House and Senate. Of particular interest were the regulations for the College Credit Plus program and the changes made to OTES.

The committee discussed the conference committee language allowing districts to negotiate below the \$40 tuition floor with approval by the Chancellor. This was a change to the amendment approved by the House, but rejected by the Senate, that would have allowed districts to negotiate below the minimum agreements with colleges. We will try to assess the impact on current and future contracts as this new provision becomes effective.

Several members of the committee expressed concern that districts are now required to pay all tuition, books and supply costs which may result in districts restricting (capping) the number of college credit courses students would be allowed to take. Many of our districts do not currently restrict the number of courses taken since the parents are responsible for the tuition payments, with a means test for those who cannot afford those payments.

Concern was also expressed over what will happen to existing contracts during this transition process since the law will not go into effect until after the start of the school year. How long do we operate under the existing arrangements and when do the new regulations begin?

Also, what happens to the PSEO program once the new law goes into effect? Can students enroll before the law goes into effect? Does the district need to have a tuition agreement with the college in which the student is enrolling? What happens if the district and the college cannot agree?

The committee was appreciative that the changes to OTES, first proposed in the Senate, made their way back into the final version of the document. These changes should be beneficial going forward.

Some additional issues involved the timing of the third grade reading test and PARCC, flexibility regarding when students take end of year exams, and

the impact of the change from minimum school days to hours on alternative delivery models?

Jim concluded the meeting with a discussion of the financial issues that must be addressed next fall in preparation for the next biennium budget, including guarantees, tangible personal property reimbursement, and a minimum base funding level for the school foundation formula. Conversations with key legislators and members of the budget office will begin this summer.

II. **Next Steps**

A. **Stakeholder Meetings**

Meetings with the State Budget Director and State Superintendent will be held over the summer.

III. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled at a date to be determined in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.