

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

**June 8, 2016
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance on phone conference: Beth Weber, Jeff Brown, Brian Wilson, Matt Montgomery, Todd Puster, Tony Podojil, and Barbara Adams.

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

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives.

A. ESSA

1. Joint Alliance Committee

Tony reminded the committee that the Alliance has formed a joint committee to begin the process of study and preparing our response to the ESSA reauthorization process. That group will be meeting over the summer to hold discussions and develop position statements on those areas of ESSA most important to our organization.

The department has informed us that they don't expect to see the distribution of the revised rules until at least the fall. In light of that, this will give us some time to formulate our positions and be prepared to offer input when that time presents itself.

We will provide updates to the committee and membership in the fall.

B. HB524 Value Added

Representatives Cupp and Smith have introduced legislation designed to begin a conversation around the rationale and purpose behind the value-added component of the state accountability system. The department provided testimony this spring designed to assist members of the House Education Committee with a better understanding of the measure along with representatives from Battelle.

Those presentations, while designed to offer clarification, appeared to only highlight the difficulties understanding the purpose of the measure and how it is calculated.

Based on conversations we have had with the Chair of the House Education committee, while there is continued interest about this bill and further testimony will probably be heard, we don't expect that to happen until after the elections in November.

C. **HB 445/474 College Credit Plus**

There are two bills now being discussed in the House focusing on college credit plus, one in the House Education Committee and the other in the Finance Committee. HB445, now being considered in the Education Committee, deals with several provisions such as when grades should be weighted and how credit is determined. We have heard from the Chair, that this bill will probably not make it out of his committee.

HB474, being heard in the Finance Committee, is being promoted by the higher education community and includes provisions eliminating the ability of school districts and colleges to negotiate rates below the floor as well as for colleges to begin offering remediation courses under the college credit plus program.

The House Chair believes HB474 will be the vehicle to move any changes to the CCP and therefore if there are provisions in HB445 we like we will need to lobby to have those added as amendments to HB474. That would also include any provisions that would institute a means test for tuition, books, supplies and fees. While the work to add a means test for tuition may be an uphill battle, we have been able to make some inroads with legislators on the needs to add a means test for books, supplies and fees.

In any case, the discussions around these bills will occur once the House reconvenes either in the fall or following the elections. If that occurs, it would be considered during the lame-duck session thus compressing our ability to influence the process.

D. **SB3 – School Deregulation**

SB3, which was passed by the Senate last year, still rests in the House waiting for a date for a hearing and/or vote. While there doesn't appear that the original provisions of SB 3 are an issue, the bill has now become a catch all for amendments primarily focusing on charter school regulations and quite possibly other provisions once the House returns.

E. **HB 410 – Truancy**

HB410 provides several provisions that would require a more defined policy and interventions on the behalf of districts when dealing with habitual truants. There is still a concern that the requirements in the bill would require districts to invest additional resources in terms of people and time to their current processes. The bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate.

Senator Lehner, the chair of the Senate Education Committee has not set a date regarding hearing this bill. She has indicating publicly that she has several concerns about the bill. The Senate has schedule several sessions for the fall.

F. Biennium Budget Planning

We have begun our discussions with the TPP group and what strategies we will use this fall as we prepare to set the stage for changes to the TPP reductions set forth in the last biennium budget. We have identified several legislators in both the House and Senate that we believe will be key to this discussion as well as sympathetic to our issue.

In addition to TPP, guarantees, caps and the minimum funding level will be key components of our platform. We are anticipating that the budget director will again push for the elimination of the guarantees to districts while holding to some level of caps. We still are confident that we can convince the budget director to support our minimum funding level of at least 20% of the formula amount. Those discussions will also occur this summer.

G. Funding Issues

Senator Gardner has indicated that he is going to present legislation that would allow high wealth districts the opportunity to participate at some partial level with the OFFC program. His proposal would allow districts to acquire some financial support from OFFC without having to participate in a full building program initiative.

Once the bill is introduced, we will be able to provide more details on how and what he is proposing.

II. Legislative Strategies

A. House Education Committee

Rep. Brenner, chair of the House Education Committee, continues to be approachable through our advisory committee meeting and appears to be more open to feedback from our group and more forthcoming in terms of how he views what is occurring at the statehouse.

III. Next Steps

We will be working on the ESSA positions and preparing for the budget discussions next year over the summer. If you have any questions or need to share information, please feel free to contact us.

IV. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be **September 14, 10:00 AM**. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.