

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

**July 8, 2015
10:00 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance: Jeff Brown, Mike Sobul, Tim Pickana, Joseph Spiccia, Brian Wilson, Phillip Herman, Beth Weber, Jim Fritz, Andy Hill, John Marchausen, Todd Yohey, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

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

I. Review of the Budget Process.

A. Issues.

1. TPP/Minimum/Formula

Tony and Jim opened the meeting by expressing everyone's disappointment with what occurred resulting from the Governor's vetoes that undid the changes made to TPP and the minimum funding level. The possibility of the legislators attempting to override the vetoes was discussed with the prevailing attitude that there does not appear to be any support for that occurring.

The committee turned its attention to a discussion of what strategies should be considered other than a veto override and when best to approach House and Senate members. In terms of the minimum funding levels, it was communicated to members of our group that while there is still support for the concept, the timing was not right and we were encouraged to continue to seek this change in a future budget.

In regard to TPP, Tony informed the committee that they had met with members of the CFFO to discuss strategies around this issue. Those included beginning to gather support for a stand-alone bill that would address the TPP issue and offer a permanent solution to the phase out question. This approach would require a significant number of co-sponsors in both the House and Senate in order to insure that the bill would not only pass but it could withstand another veto attempt by the Governor.

A single page explanation of what we are seeking is being crafted for use with legislators and our own boards. In addition, the actual bill language will be developed in order that a clear understanding of what we are seeking is presented to legislators.

While that is being crafted, members will be encouraged to speak and meet with their representatives over the summer in order to share with them the impact the Governor's decision is having on the district and what the likely outcomes will be because of that. It will be critical that we keep this issue at the forefront as we attempt to gather support

for a change in the fall. There are several legislators who have expressed their displeasure over what occurred and we need to continue to insure they carry those feelings into the fall.

Jim encouraged members, during their discussions with legislators, to determine their levels of support, in particular, whether they would be willing co-signors to the bill. Also, anyone who would appear to be in opposition for the bill will need to be identified. We will need to establish a majority in order to convince leadership that this is the path to follow in terms of an ultimate resolution to this issue.

2. **State Achievement Testing**

Jim brought the committee up to speed on the work of the Accountability Committee and our role in providing input into the testing debate. The final set of recommendations that were sent to the Senate and House appeared to have had a significant impact into the final outcomes approved in the budget including the elimination of PARCC and the use of AIR as a replacement.

While this appears to be the best possible solution in terms of next year, the more pressing issue is what is the long term solution and how do we provide input into that process. In terms of other related issues for the short term, John Marchausen indicated that a decision will need to be made on how end of course exam results will be used and their ultimate impact on graduation requirements. That issue will be included on the Accountability committee's agenda when they meet next week.

II. **Other Issues, Ideas.**

A. **Levy Strategies**

It was suggested that an area that the Alliance may want to consider in terms of assisting members is in the area of how best to craft messages on levy requests that may now result because of the Governor's budget decisions. We continue to hear from the administration that districts would be best served by having the majority of their funds voted locally thereby retaining local control and reducing their reliance on the state for funding. That idea will be presented to the executive committee for consideration.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Conference Call**

Depending on what may occur over the summer, we may need to conduct another conference call for updates and/or feedback.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **September 9** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.