

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

**September 9, 2015  
10:00 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance:* Tim Pickana, Brian Wilson, Phillip Herman, Jennifer Logan, Todd Yohey, Paul Imhoff Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams. Also in attendance were those participating in the new superintendents Alliance orientation program that had met prior to the meeting.

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

**I. Review of the Budget Process.**

**A. Issues.**

**1. TPP – Governor’s Veto**

Tony and Jim opened the meeting by reviewing the discussions that have occurred with CFFO following the governor’s veto of the TPP hold harmless provisions. Tim Pickana then provided the group with update of the activities of CFFO, their work with the Alliance and the progress made in developing data supporting the offset concept. CFFO and the Alliance have been working over the summer to fine tune this proposal and determine the most effective strategies for approaching legislators and the Governor’s office.

The groups agreed that the best path to pursue would be a stand-alone bill introduced this fall rather than waiting for a possible MBR in January. Determining the level of support from legislators and how leadership and the Governor’s office might respond is now underway. Within the next two weeks, we should have a better understanding of what might be supported and at what level and by whom.

One of the issues that has become apparent when analyzing the data resulting from the offset concept is that there are some districts (approximately 44) that would not benefit from using formula growth to offset TPP reductions because they are on the formula guarantee. We have heard more than once from the Governor’s staff that any possible fix to the TPP issue must include reduction for all districts with a predictable run out. How to accomplish that for those districts on both a formula and TPP guarantee will be a challenge.

Tony and Jim also shared with the committee a possible proposal from members of the House that would reduce the 2% reduction factor to a lower rate, thus lessening the impact of the cuts. This concept would satisfy the Governor’s insistence that 100% of the districts are impacted and that there is a predictable ending to the TPP payments.

A follow up call with members of the CFFO is scheduled for September 15th. Following that call, we hope to have a timeline established that

would lay out when and by whom the legislation would be introduced, and how districts can help support the bill through the hearing process. We then plan to meet with the education organizations to elicit their input and support.

One of the issues expressed, when meeting previously with the organizations, was the concern from some of their members about using funds above the cap to reduce future TPP payments. Those districts see this as an unfair advantage since TPP districts would start at a higher base formula level when caps are used in the future. They have indicated they would prefer that the funds used for TPP reduction would be used instead to increase the cap levels so districts would receive more of their projected formula funding.

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 final changes made for this year to the state testing program. Work still needs to be done regarding those students who choose not to participate in the test and how that decision impacts the state report card and district results.

Discussions have been held with members of ODE regarding the impact of “opt outs” on this year’s state report card and how to stem the tide of additional “opt outs” for future years. The Accountability Committee is scheduled to meet on September 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss that topic, as well as the future of AIR as the testing vendor.

II. **Other Issues, Ideas.**

A. TIFF

Jennifer Logan asked the committee to look into the changes made to the TIFF rules that found their way into the budget bill. It appears that the language allowing for TIFF agreements to be extended an additional 15 years, including those agreements made prior to the requirement that schools sign off before a TIFF can be formed. There is a TIFF agreement in her district that was entered into prior to the requirement that districts approve the agreement, and the language in the budget bill would allow that agreement to be extended an additional 15 years without school board approval.

Tony and Jim will research this issue for discussion at our next meeting.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Conference Call**

Depending upon what progress is made in regard to the TPP initiative, we may need to conduct a conference call outside of our normal scheduled monthly meeting.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **October 14** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA or by phone conference. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.