

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

**April 11, 2018  
10:00 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Beth Weber, Andy Hill, Tim Pickana, Bill Wade, Jessica Voltolini and Tony Podojil.

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

**I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives.**

Tony welcomed Jessica to the committee and she took a moment to share her background and resume with the group on the call. She believes that her experiences in the various levels of education at the state level will be a good addition to helping the Alliance fulfill the organizations goals and objectives.

Jessica provided the committee with an update on what to expect in terms of legislative activity over the next couple of months. With the resignation of the Speaker and the upcoming primaries, she indicated that the level of legislative activity in both the House and Senate would be limited. Prior to the Memorial Day break, the House is scheduled for a voting session on May 16, May 23, and 24 and the Senate on May 16 and 23. We also anticipate very few committee hearings prior to the May 8<sup>th</sup> Primary Election. Based on that schedule, we are anticipating very little activity to be conducted in both chambers. We are then anticipating that following Memorial Day, both the House and Senate will be out of session until the elections are held in November. That will then set up what could be a very active and busy lame duck session in November and December.

Based on the above, many of the legislative items discussed below are impacted in terms of both timing as well as the potential to being voted out of committee. Tony and Jessica provided the committee with an update on the following legislative items:

**A. HB512 – Department of Learning and Achievement**

Tony provided the committee with a set of talking points developed by a task force formed after the Executive Committee held a discussion regarding HB512. The document centers around a structural change that would influence how ODE involves the field in the policy development process and a statement that the Alliance is not in support of the changes being proposed in HB512 related to changing the purpose and duties of the State Board of Education.

In general, the Legislative Committee was supportive of the proposals developed by the task force. These positions were shared with Rep. Reineke's office who indicated support for the structural changes. We are anticipating that there may be several amendments proposed to HB512. Some of them could include the amendments we suggested and are seeking. Due to timing, it is unlikely HB512 will be amended and voted out of Committee prior to Memorial

Day. There is still strong opposition related to the changes proposed to the State Board, which may also impact a Committee vote.

Regardless, the Executive Committee felt it was important that we use this opportunity to promote some changes to the decision-making structure that would improve input and feedback both to ODE and the field. The items discussed in terms of structural changes stand on their own regardless of the fate of HB512.

#### **B. SB216 - Deregulation**

Jessica indicated that we are waiting to see what Rep. Brenner is intending to do since this bill has been referred to the House Education Committee. He has indicated that he may want to add some additional items to the bill such as changes to the graduation requirements. With the limited time available over the next two months, this bill could turn into a "Christmas Tree" bill during the lame duck session.

We have a meeting scheduled with Rep. Brenner on May 14. We should get a better handle on what he intends to do in terms of timing and additional amendments to the bill at that time.

#### **C. HB591 - State Report Card Revisions**

Rep. Duffy introduced his bill and provided an overview of HB591 in the House Education Committee this month. With the complexities associated with the changes and what will be certainly a lively debate in terms of continuing to assign letter grades, we do not anticipate this bill moving very quickly, if at all prior to the lame duck session. There is interest on behalf of the State Board of Education who is also considering changes to the report card, but the timing and complexity will make this difficult to move forward.

Part of Rep. Duffy's strategy was to get the bill introduced and the discussion started. We may need to consider resurrecting these concepts when the next General Assembly is seated in 2019.

#### **D. House School Funding Task Force**

The school funding task force is close to completing their work and we anticipate a final report sometime in June. Tony indicated he has been invited to attend the May meeting of the distribution committee to introduce AHQE's fair funding concept to that group. Also of interest to the Alliance is the discussion related to reinstating some version of a sliding scale charge off replacing the current ranking formula.

Once this task force completes its report, we intend to review the changes proposed and at a minimum, focus on those having the greatest impact on Alliance members. As we develop our fiscal strategies for the next budget cycle, we hope to begin meeting with the candidates running for Governor over the summer. We would like to begin sharing those key ideas and concepts with them prior to them developing their budget philosophies.

## II. Legislative Strategies

### **A. House Education Committee**

As was discussed earlier, we will be meeting with Rep. Brenner to see what he intends to do in the House Education Committee in terms of SB216, high school graduation requirements and the state report card. We have also heard that he may be interested on scheduling additional hearings for HB200, which is the school choice scholarship expansion bill. We will provide an update once we meet with Rep. Brenner on May 14.

### **B. Senate Education Committee**

We are still watching the movement of SB246 (The "Safe Act") as it is being heard in the Senate Finance Committee. With the House passage of HB360, this bill will move over and be referred to the Senate Education Committee for hearings. With the limited amount of time for scheduling hearings prior to Memorial Day, we do not anticipate these bills will move quickly.

### **C. State Board of Education**

The changes to the gifted operating rules that we had proposed and were included in SB216 were passed by the full board during their April meeting. Districts can now plan to incorporate those changes into their plans for next year.

The Board is still holding discussions on possible changes to the graduation requirements for the class of 2019 and beyond. At this point, these discussions could continue into the fall at both the state board and legislative levels. It looks like we may be headed to a similar situation that the class of 2018 was in as possible changes were being considered -during the fall of their senior year.

Finally, ODE is completing the feedback process associated with the strategic plan developed earlier in the year. ODE is wrapping up a series of regional stakeholder meetings to discuss the draft plan. The deadline to provide input and comments on the draft plan is April 20. Tony indicated he has been invited to a meeting in May that will reconvene the Oversight Committee for the purpose of reviewing the final draft of the plan.

### **D. HB98 and SB226**

Jessica provided the committee with an overview of two bills that have recently passed. HB98 prohibits boards of education from imposing restrictions on the presentation of career information to students by representative of skilled trades or providers of career technical education that are not uniformly imposed on representatives of business, industry the armed forces etc.

In terms of SB226, an amendment was included in the bill that authorizes a county school financing district property tax for school safety, security and mental health services. This provision may be of interest to our members who are seeking capital and additional operating funds to address student safety concerns.

The Governor signed both bills on 3/30/2018. SB226 included an emergency clause, so it is effective as of March 30. HB 98 has a 90-day effective date and will be effective prior to the start of next school year.

The next meeting will be **May 9, 10:00 AM by phone conference if necessary.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.