

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

**May 16, 2018  
11:00 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Beth Weber, Bill Wade, Bill Porter, Jeff Brown, Andy Culp, Bob Hunt, Jessica Voltolini and Tony Podojil.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 11:00 a.m.

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

Jessica provided the committee with an update on the current political climate in Columbus stemming from the change caused by the House Speaker's abrupt resignation this month. Presently, the House is deliberating in an attempt to select a new Speaker, as of the meeting today, Rep. Smith, the frontrunner for the position, had not yet secured the necessary votes for his appointment. The House will meet on Tuesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> for a voting Session; Rep. Smith will most likely be appointed Speaker at that time.

This delay in selecting a Speaker has left the House in a holding pattern since it is unable to pass any legislation without a House Speaker. This delay has left several key education bills in question concerning when and if it all, they may be considered before the House breaks for the summer. Compounding the problem is the fact that the Senate is nearing the end of their session. They should be done in early June regardless of what happens on the House side.

Jessica indicated that we would be monitoring the situation over the next week to determine what strategies we may want to employ related to bills such as SB216 and HB591. We have a direct interest in seeing these two bills passed now rather than delayed until the lame duck session. In particular, delaying SB216 to approval something in November will effectively push any changes to the 2019-20 school year.

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

Tony indicated that we remain in contact with Rep. Reineke's office and we are anticipating a substitute version of the bill to be introduced when the House resumes operation after selecting a new Speaker. The substitute bill will include amendments, including amendments in line with ideas we shared with Rep. Reineke and House staff. It does not appear the bill will be voted on by the full House at this time but the bill sponsor intends to push for the bill's passage during lame duck.

**B. SB216 – Deregulation**

Rep. Brenner indicated he is intending to have the bill heard in his committee whenever they reconvene. His hope is to get it voted out of committee and on to the floor this month. If amendments or other bills are merged into this

bill, it will determine if it can get out of the House and through the Senate prior to the break.

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

As we indicated earlier, Rep. Duffy introduced his bill in the House Education Committee earlier this month. With the complexities associated with the changes, we still 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 at this time.

**D. House School Funding Task Force**

A final report is due to be issued sometime in June. By all accounts, they are on target to meet that deadline.

**II. Legislative Strategies**

**A. House Education Committee**

See above.

**B. Senate Education Committee**

With the House passage of HB360, this bill has now moved to Senate Education Committee for hearings. With the limited amount of time for scheduling hearings prior to Memorial Day, we do not anticipate this bill will move quickly. In addition, Senator Lehner has reservations related to the suspension carryover provisions contained in the bill.

**C. State Board of Education**

The final version of the State Strategic Plan is currently being vetted. Tony indicated that he would be attending a meeting of the Oversight Committee that will be reviewing the revised version on May 22.

The next meeting will be **June 13, 10:00 AM by phone conference if necessary.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.