

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

September 12, 2018

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on phone conference: Lynn Campbell, Judy Robinson, Catherine Aukerman, Jonathan Cooper, Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Phil Herman, Brian Wilson, Andy Culp, Joe Spiccia, Tom Burton, Jessica Voltolini, Tony Podojil and Tom Ash (BASA Guest).

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

I. Legislative Update.

A. Governor's Race

1. Policy Development

Jessica Voltolini, the Alliance's new legislative consultant, welcomed the committee, provided an overview of her experiences, and addressed her role with the Alliance. She reminded the members that a legislative update had been distributed in August that provided information on SB216, HB318, HB21. She updated that legislative overview to include information regarding HB87 and resent to members.

Regarding the current political landscape, the General Assembly has been on break over the summer with the Senate scheduled to return for one session on 9/25 and the House not scheduled to return until after the November elections. That will leave the lame duck session as the only opportunity to pass additional legislation prior to the end of the calendar year. The lame duck session will begin the week of November 12 and will wrap up by December 20. Depending upon which Governor is elected, we could see a very active or light lame duck session.

With the November election, we anticipate much change coming in terms of leadership in the Governor's office as well as in the House and Senate. In particular, we will be carefully monitoring who will ultimately be assigned to both the House and Senate Education and Finance Committees. The fight over the House Speaker race will continue after the first of the year when there is a vote for Speaker. If Ryan Smith remains as Speaker, changes may be limited. However, if Larry Householder is selected Speaker, we will most certainly see major changes related to the House leadership team as well as to appointments of committee chairs and committee assignments.

While we do not foresee changes regarding the Senate President's position, Senators Oelslager and Manning, the current chair and vice-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, are both term limited and will not be returning to the Senate. They are both running for House seats. Whoever is appointed as the next Senate Finance Committee chair and vice chair will be extremely influential in negotiating the Senate's position during the next biennial budget.

2. **Governor's Race/Budget**

Jessica indicated that she and Tony are scheduled to meet with the policy advisors for each candidate for Governor and we are working on five AHQE position papers that will be shared with each campaign. Our goal is to participate in those discussions with the candidates prior to the election to help influence how they may be approaching the topics of interest to us. We will have more information to share when we meet again in October.

B. **Position Statements**

1. **High School Graduation Requirements**

Jessica updated the committee on the status of discussions associated with changes to the current graduation requirements at the state level. While there appears to be some sentiment in the House to address the issue during the lame duck session, the State Senate President has already indicated publicly that he is not in support of the State Board's recommendations in terms of changes.

Presently, the Committee identified two levels of concern. First, there is an immediate issue related to the class of 2019 and the current seniors' ability to meet the existing end-of-course exam pathway. The test performance data related to this class will be available following the release of the report cards later this week. Both the General Assembly and ODE are waiting to see what that information reveals before proceeding with a specific plan for the class of 2019.

The second level of concern is what changes should be made long-term and how that transition should take place. All agreed that the system is heavily reliant on student test performance and fails to capture the full high school experience.

Tony suggested that if the gubernatorial candidates are interested in developing students ready for both college or the workforce, they need to develop specific graduation requirements that move students in that direction. That will require the addition of components that go beyond testing data.

Based on the Committee discussion, we will share both concerns with the gubernatorial candidates when we meet with them this month.

2. **State Report Card**

HB591 sits currently in the House Education Committee. We are not sure if this will be considered during the lame duck session. We have referred the discussion of this bill to our Accountability Committee, which will be meeting next week.

3. **Student Wellness and Safety**

Jessica shared that in our preliminary discussions with both gubernatorial campaigns, student wellness and school safety are priorities of both. We are anticipating that funding will be made available to address these issues and we are developing a position paper related to this topic.

The Committee discussed possible strategies they are considering in their respective districts that might be included as a strategy for the Alliance to pursue. Beth Weber shared a partnership that Sycamore has developed

with Children's Hospital that expands the availability of mental health services for students in the schools. Joe Spiccia shared their partnership with Signature Health in which a family resource center will be created at their high school that will provide mental health and health related services to students, their families and the community.

In both cases, the health providers are relying on enhanced Medicare billing to support the program. By using this approach, the schools can open the services up to everyone in the community. If the ability to use enhanced Medicare as a funding source is either reduced or eliminated, these programs would not survive.

4. **School Finance**

The Executive Committee has been waiting to develop a final position paper on school funding until the release of the report from the Cupp/Paterson school funding workgroup. That report has not yet been released and due to the timing of our meetings with the campaigns, we will be working on a position paper to share with the Executive Committee when they meet later this month.

5. **Education Governance**

We are using the position paper that was developed for purposes of HB 512 as the basis for our discussions with the campaigns. There is still a possibility that this topic may be resurrected in the lame duck session. Stay tuned.

II. **Legislative Strategies**

A. **ODE – Gifted Rules**

Tony inquired into the awareness of the issues that have arisen regarding the new gifted professional development guidelines. Apparently, the department has created several rules around how hours are calculated that is different from what we agreed to in the spring. An email from Ann Sheldon, the lobbyist for the gifted group, was shared with the group. More information will follow once we can get a better handle on the issues at hand.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **Regional Meeting**

Regional meetings are scheduled for October to further discuss the above and illicit feedback from members.

IV. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **October 11, 10:00 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.