

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

**October 10, 2018  
10:00 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Judy Robinson, Tim Pickana, Beth Weber, Karen Naber, Brian Wilson, Andy Culp, Andy Hill, Tom Burton, Matt Montgomery, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil.

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

**I. Legislative Update.**

**A. Position Statements**

**1. High School Graduation Requirements**

Jessica provided the committee with a review of what has happened at the State Board level previously regarding graduation standards and the status of conversations relating to graduation requirements for the class of 2019 and beyond. She shared that originally, the State Board and ODE advocated for a one-year alternative pathway option for the class of 2018 that the General Assembly accepted and passed as part of the last biennial budget bill. This past summer, the State Board passed a resolution stating that they would like to extend that solution ("class of 2018 alternative pathway") for an additional two years while they worked on a more permanent graduation solution.

The State Board's resolution was not favorably received by the General Assembly, and as a result, the class of 2019 is subject to existing law (three pathways) governing graduation requirements. Because the State Board, ODE, and legislators are not all on the same page regarding future graduation requirements, Tony and Jessica are not confident that any further changes will pass during lame duck session. They are monitoring this very closely and will continue to have conversations with legislators over the next couple months.

The State Board is meeting next week and this issue is on their agenda to be addressed. This meeting should provide a clearer direction of where the State Board and Superintendent DeMaria is intending to go on this matter.

**2. State Report Card**

HB591 is currently pending in the House Education Committee. We are waiting for clarity on whether this bill will be subject to Committee hearings during the duck session. We know that Rep. Duffey is working on a revised version of the bill and we have referred the discussion of this bill to our Accountability Committee. The Accountability Committee is doing a deep dive into the HB591 provisions that are most important to the Alliance and are considering what modifications we may want the bill sponsor to consider.

Beth Weber shared a conversation she had with Rep. Seitz, who indicated that he would be in favor of replacing the A-F grading system with a 1 -5 star rating system.

### **3. Student Wellness and Safety**

Jessica shared that both governor campaigns indicated student wellness, mental health and school safety are priorities in the education policy space. We are anticipating that funding for mental health services and school safety will be discussed during the FY20-21 budget process, which will kick off in March 2019. We are circulating AHQE's white paper regarding student wellness and school safety priorities.

### **4. School Finance**

The Cupp/Paterson School Funding working group is holding regional meetings throughout the state during October, in an effort to get feedback about their work. The purpose of these regional meetings is to share the working group's thoughts on how best to calculate base costs and working group members will share their respective thinking regarding the methodology they prefer to calculating base cost and other components of the school funding formula. Members are encouraged to attend these sessions.

### **5. Education Governance**

We are using the position paper that was developed in the Spring for HB 512 as the basis for our discussions with the gubernatorial campaigns. It is likely that HB512 will be revisited by the governor's office and legislature during the lame duck session. Stay tuned.

## **Legislative Strategies**

### **A. ODE – Gifted Rules**

Tony updated the committee on his meeting with ODE on the gifted rules. An update should be out soon that would reflect the agreements made last spring in terms of what hours are needed and the timeframe for meeting requirements. He asked if members were aware that the maintenance requirement, which begins in the year after the individual completes the 60-hour requirement was, and was assured that they were.

### **B. Preschool Rules**

Andy Culp provided the committee with an update regarding the issues associated with changes to the pre-school staffing rules being considered by ODE. While SB216 addressed the ratio issues associated with the changes, it did not address the licensure requirements being considered for the integrated classrooms. The rule change would require schools to add staff to their existing programs to meet the new requirements.

The State Board was going to consider the rule changes at their October meeting but that discussion has been post-poned to November. Tony shared that he had a conversation with Tom Ash at BASA and the education organizations are suggesting to the Department that they issues the changes as guidelines and best practices rather than by required rules. More to come on this topic at our next meeting.

Tom Burton asked if any of the members on the call had a concern related to how the coding for 4-year and 5-year graduation cohorts has changed. Apparently, the code for special education students (48) accounts for students in the 4-year cohort but not the 5-year cohort. This creates changes to the districts graduation rate for that class. Tony and Jessica indicated they would explore this in more detail and continue the discussion when we meet in November.

### **III. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **November 14, 10:00 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.