

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

**February 13, 2019  
9:30 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Catherine Aukerman, Jonathan Cooper, Andy Culp, Mark Gleichauf, Phil Herman, Todd Puster, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil

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

**I. Current Political Landscape**

**A. Governor – Education Staff**

Jessica Voltolini, The Alliance’s legislative consultant, updated the committee on our current efforts to reach out to the Governor’s staff. We have held an initial meeting with Devin Babcock, education policy advisor for Governor DeWine. We have begun engaging Devin in a discussion related to the graduation requirements for the class of 2021 and beyond as well as the administration’s priorities shared during the campaign related to early childhood initiatives, addressing the opioid crisis, mental health services, and workforce development.

We are anticipating the release of the biennial budget bill by the DeWine administration on or before March 15, 2019.

**B. 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly**

Jessica shared that the appointments for the House and Senate Education Committee chairs and membership have been made. Rep. Blessing will chair the House Education Committee and Senator Lehner the Senate Education Committee. Of importance to the Alliance in terms of our membership in the Cleveland area, Senator Dolan has been appointed to Chair the Finance Committee. Sen. Terhar will chair the Senate Finance Primary & Secondary Education Subcommittee. In the House, Rep. Oelslager is chairing the House Finance Committee and Reps. Cupp and Patterson are co-chairing the House Finance Primary & Secondary Education Subcommittee.

Members of the General Assembly have already begun to introduce bills involving a variety of education topics. In an effort to keep the Committee as well as the AHQE membership informed and updated, Jessica indicated that she is creating a document that will track AHQE bills of interest as the bills move through the legislative process. She will share a copy of an updated bill tracker to members of the Legislative Committee each month.

In addition, Jessica is in the final stages of completing a list of the General Assembly members and State Board of Education members by AHQE district for use as a reference tool. This list will be shared with the Committee as well as the full membership when completed.

**C. ODE/State Board**

On January 2, 2019, after consulting with Governor-Elect DeWine’s transition team, Gov. Kasich appointed four new members to the State Board of Education (SBOE).

The follow business people were appointed to the board:

- a. David Brinegar, BSM of Fayette, Ohio (Fulton Co.);

- b. Cindy Collins of Amanda, Ohio (Fairfield Co.);
- c. Mark Lamonsha of Leetonia, Ohio (Columbiana Co.); and
- d. Michael Toal of Sidney, Ohio (Shelby Co.).

Tony provided the Committee with an update regarding the State Board's most recent meeting held earlier in the week. As part of their regular meeting, Paolo DeMaria provided the Board with a general legislative update that included the priorities he believes would need to be addressed in the upcoming months.

Those priorities included the following: the budget as it relates to school funding and the school funding model, graduation requirements, report card changes and related accountability reforms, assessment and testing reductions, and a review of the Academic Distress Commissions.

The Board is slated to discuss and pass their proposal related to graduation requirements for the class of 2021 and beyond when they meet in March. In terms of the Alliance's position, discussions with the respective Executive, Legislative and Accountability Committees are being held to assist in developing our recommendations and priorities.

#### D. Key Stakeholders

A meeting with the lobbyists from OSBA, OASBO and OSBA is scheduled for 2/19/19. The purpose of that meeting is to share ideas and priorities as we begin to work with this new General Assembly and Governor DeWine's team.

In addition to the major educational organizations, the business community has created a new non-profit, Ohio Excels. This is a statewide initiative on the part of the business community to promote what they see as priorities P-20. Lisa Gray is the Executive Director.

We have met with them twice to discuss general topics and more specifically, graduation requirements. If we can agree conceptually in what the final product might look like in terms of requirements, this group may be a great asset to us in terms of broadening our support outside of the educational community and with the Governor's office.

#### E. Cupp-Patterson

The final report including the financial impacts for each district (spreadsheets) is close to being completed. Rep. Cupp and Patterson have been assigned as co-chairs of the House Finance Primary & Secondary Subcommittee. This places them in a unique position to utilize the work done by the study group over the last year. We will be following the developments in this area very closely as hearings begin in this committee and the budget as it related to Primary and Secondary Education.

## II. **Legislative Strategies**

### A. Lame Duck Update

Jessica recapped the key pieces of legislation that both passed and failed to come to a vote during the lame duck session. Those included the following:

- Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2019 and 2020 were addressed in **Sub. HB 491**
- Treasurer Liability changes from **HB 705** were amended into **HB 491**

- **SB 82** provisions regarding mandatory notifications to parents in the case of a student's unexcused absence were amended last minute into **HB 66**
- **HB 343** (Rep. Merrin) regarding property tax complaints did NOT pass this General Assembly
- **HB 428** (Reps. Ginter and LaTourette) named the "Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018" did NOT pass this General Assembly

#### B. 133rd General Assembly

Bills introduced the week of February 11, 2019 include:

- **SB4 – School Facilities (Kunze/Rulli)** -To make Capital appropriations for school facilities assistance.
- **SB 26 – Educator Tax Deductions (Kunze)** To authorize a state income tax deduction for teacher's out-of-pocket expenses for professional development and classroom supplies.
- **SB 34 – School Employment (Kunze)** - Regarding school employee employment and education licensure and conduct.
- **HB 22 – School Facilities (Antani)** – To require the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission and the Department of Education to conduct a study regarding certain school building amenities.
- **HB 23 School Athletics (Antani)** – To authorize any student from a country or province outside of the United States who holds an F-1 visa to participate in interscholastic athletics.

In addition to those indicated above, we are aware that Senator Huffman has been working with the Career Tech community to put together a second deregulation bill aimed at that education area. In addition, we fully expect that HB343 (Merrin), the property tax complaints bill, will be reintroduced shortly.

### III. Next Steps

#### A. Graduation Requirement

Tony informed the committee that they have begun working on a proposal related to addressing the graduation requirements for the class of 2021 and beyond. The Accountability Committee will be meeting next week to discuss specific components of the proposal related to scaling back the testing requirements, returning to a competency based assessment approach and including opportunities for students to demonstrate a variety of skill levels and accomplishments by adding a third component to the graduation process.

### IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **March 13, 9:30 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.