

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

**April 10, 2019  
9:30 A.M.  
MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Jim Fritz, Tim Pickana, Todd Puster, Beth Weber, Brian Wilson, Kathy Powers, Joe Spiccia, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 9:40 a.m.. The primary focus of the meeting was to update the committee on the status of the Alliance Graduation proposal, the current news related to the budget, the Cupp/Patterson work and several pieces of legislation currently under consideration in the House and Senate.

**I. Current Political Landscape**

**A. Graduation Requirement Proposal**

Tony and Jessica shared that the final version of the Alliance graduation proposal continues to require the mandatory course completion requirements and changes the accountability testing by establishing a competency requirement for only two tests, English II and Algebra 1. In addition to those two requirements, the proposal establishes an endorsement/seal requirement that requires students to complete two seals (any combination of two state developed seals or one state and locally created). This component will allow students to focus and display skill and interests in areas and have those areas recognized on their diploma.

Tony indicated that he and Jessica had spent a considerable amount of time soliciting feedback from the Executive Committee as we worked on drafting and refining this proposal. Once that was completed, it was shared with the Ohio Department of Education, various educational organizations and groups, the teacher organizations, the Governor's office and representatives in the House and Senate.

Upon the urging of several members in the Senate, we reached out to the Business community (Ohio Excels) and Fordham in an effort to arrive at a consensus proposal that could be presented to the General Assembly with the intent of including it in the biennium budget.

Based on all of the above, they indicated that we had arrived at a consensus in terms of submitting a joint proposal with Ohio Excels and Fordham to the Senate and House with one exception; those organizations asked that the GPA alternative pathway be removed. After a discussion with members of the committee, they agreed that in light of what retained in the proposal, removing the GPA component from the proposal was acceptable.

The committee members continue to feel strongly that advocating for what we believe to be a better solution was critical at this time. Our students not only deserve a long-term solution to the graduation requirements but also a fundamental shift that balances course completion and accountability with student experience and skill attainment.

## **B. Biennium Budget – School Funding Formula**

Jessica updated the committee on the status of the biennial budget and whether the House will incorporate the work of the Cupp/Patterson Task Force into the school funding calculations. Based on comments made by Speaker Householder, the amount needed to fund the new formula, the issues the new calculations have created for some of the urban districts and low-wealth districts and the timing of trying to get this done in this condensed timeframe appears to make it unlikely the House will take this up during this budget cycle.

Jessica indicated that we would be anticipating a release of the budget in the House either on 4/29 or on 4/30. Regardless of what occurs with the foundation formula, we will need to continue to advocate for our minimum funding level and the held harmless language for the remaining TPP districts.

## **II. Legislative Strategies**

### **A. 133rd General Assembly – Bills Introduced**

Jessica indicated that we are monitoring the following pieces of legislation in the House and Senate:

#### **House**

1. **HB 122** (Rep. Koehler) – Opportunity Scholarship Program
2. **HB 75** (Rep. Merrin) - Property tax Valuation Challenges
3. **HB 164** (Rep. Ginter) - Student Religious Expression
4. **HB 127** (Reps. Miller & Jones) – Moratorium on Academic Distress Commissions

#### **Senate**

1. **SB 89** (Sen. Huffman) – Career Tech/JVS Deregulation

## **III. Next Steps**

### **A. Budget, Graduation Requirement and pending legislation**

Jessica updated the committee on the expected timelines related to the budget and how it will proceed from the House to the Senate to conference committee and eventually to the Governor. The House should have the budget completed sometime the first part of May. That would allow the Senate about a month to do their work before the final resolutions is worked out in conference committee.

## **IV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **May 8, 9:00 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.