

ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE/SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

October 9, 2019
9:30 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on phone conference: Andrew Hill, Beth Weber, Bill Wade, Christine Poetter, David Chambers, Greg Gurka, Jenni Logan, Shaun Bevans, Kent Zeman, Kim Miller, Mark Gleichauf, Mike Sawyers, Tom Evans, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 9:30 a.m.

I. Current Political and Legislative Landscape

Jessica Voltolini, provided a general update on the most recent legislative developments since our meeting in September. She indicated that Rep. Blessing will be moving from the House to the Senate to fill the Senate seat vacated by Sen. Terhar. His committee assignments have not yet been identified and we will be watching to see if he is seated on the Senate Education Committee.

A. Cupp/Patterson School Funding Task Force and Status of HB305

At the present there are no hearings scheduled on HB305 - School Funding. When that occurs, we will be asked to once again testify on the work of the task force. Any testimony the Alliance provides will be similar to the Alliance's testimony during the budget process.

Jenni Logan, a member of the Cupp/Patterson task force, shared that the group has been working on addressing some of the equity issues raised by the Speaker of the House. It appears his office is also working on some ideas on how best to address equity from his perspective. He has not yet shared those concepts and ideas publicly. Equity, overall, is still an issue the task force continues to work on.

Jenni also shared that they have heard from Treasurers that they want to see the details and calculations attached to the simulations before they are willing to fully support the concepts and work behind the bill. Understanding exactly how the calculations arrive at the district total is necessary before treasurers in general, will get fully behind supporting the bill.

Finally, she shared that Jim Betts is trying to bring the education community together in an effort to get broad based support of the bill. A meeting scheduled this week was delayed because of conflicts of those needing to attend. A future meeting date will be scheduled and we are planning on participating.

II. Legislative Update

Jessica provided the committee with an update on those pieces of legislation of most current concern that were discussed at our last meeting. She indicated that HB281- Naming a Valedictorian, is not likely to move out of House Education Committee. If it does, we will alert members immediately.

Of the bills currently under consideration, the bills indicated below have the chance to move this fall:

HB123 - School Security and Youth Suicide is a bill we will be watching closely since it would require districts to make changes in how they identify and report student behavior and potential mental health issues.

SB121 – Creation of Statewide Health Standards would require the state board to develop statewide health standards that would be permissive for districts in terms of adoption. This is always a controversial topic because of the sex education component of the standards. While this has a chance to get support in the Senate, it will have a much tougher time building support in the House.

Jessica also shared an update regarding forthcoming gun reform legislation from the DeWine Administration. Legislation is imminent per a press conference the Governor and Lt. Governor held on Monday, Oct. 7. Sen. Dolan is sponsoring the bill. We will discuss with the Legislative Committee during our next Committee call.

III. State Report Card

Tony updated the committee on the progress being made with BASA and the other education organizations on developing a set of Alliance priorities by category regarding the State Report Card. The Accountability Committee will be meeting later today and will be discussing in more detail those positions. Those ideas will then be shared with the Executive Committee when they meet on 10/23.

IV. Contracted Transportation Bill

Jessica shared that the House is working on a bill that would create a statewide school transportation system. The bill would create a school transportation commission that would create and then regulate regional centers across the state. The system would serve both public and private schools. We will be meeting with the bill sponsor to learn more in terms of how this would affect districts and our members.

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be **November 13, 9:30 AM by phone conference if needed.**
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.