

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

September 11, 2019

9:30 A.M.

**MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on phone conference:* Beth Weber, Kathy Powers, Judy Robinson, Jonathan Cooper, Frank Forsthoefel, Kim Miller, Bill Wade, Greg Gurka, Laurie Lofton, Tom Evans, Jessica Voltolini, and Tony Podojil

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

**I. Current Political Landscape**

**A. Governor – Education Staff**

Jessica Voltolini, the Alliance's legislative consultant, shared several ODE resources connected with the student wellness and success funding made available to districts in the biennium budget. ODE has devoted a web page and has developed a FAQ that districts can use as guidance in the distribution of those funds.

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

Jessica indicated that the General Assembly has recently returned from summer break. The Senate Education Committee began meeting this week focusing on proposed changes to the Academic Distress Commission passed by the House, HB154. A substitute version of HB154 is expected to be voted out of committee and up for consideration by the full Senate by the end of September.

It is unlikely that the House Education Committee will not reconvene until sometime in early October. We are anticipating some changes in leadership on that Committee if Rep. Blessing moves over to the Senate to replace Senator Terher who is retiring. Rep. Don Jones is the likely replacement as Chair of the House Education Committee.

While there are a variety of bills still under consideration in both chambers, Jessica indicated that she did not think that many of those bills would move forward during the fall session due to timing considerations.

**C. ODE/State Board**

Tony indicated that he and Jessica had a meeting with the Board President and Vice-President over the summer for the purposes of reviewing the timeline and activities that led to our graduation proposal. That meeting also yielded a discussion on the process they anticipate using involving making changes to the State Report Card. We once again expressed our willingness to work with the department and the board on the development of those changes.

**D. Key Stakeholders**

Tony indicated that we had a meeting with the lobbyists from OSBA, OASBO and OSBA in August. The purpose of that meeting was to review the issues related to the passage of the graduation requirement. While the meeting was productive, there are still some lingering issues remaining from that situation. The meeting concluded with how we could work together on the upcoming discussion related to changes to the State Report Card System as well as HB305, the Cupp/Paterson school funding proposal.

E. **Cupp- Patterson Work Group**

The members of the Cupp/Paterson work group held a meeting in early September in which they invited all the educational groups to discuss the next steps with HB305 and to seek their support from those groups in moving forward. While the meeting was productive, more work needs to be done in terms of reaching a consensus within the groups. While the issue of adequacy appears to have a general agreement amongst the group, there is still a difference of opinion relating to how the new formula addresses equity.

II. **Legislative Strategies**

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

Jessica updated the committee on the bills listed below that may be considered during this session. She also shared an updated bill tracker.

A. **House**

1. HB305 - Cupp/Patterson School Funding
2. HB281 (Rep. Antani) – Naming a Valedictorian
3. HB132 (Rep. Manning) – Vaccination Exemptions
4. HB22 (Rep. Antani) – Air Conditioning, Security and Accessibility in Schools
5. HB90 (Rep. Antani) – Fetal Development Education
6. HB 164 (Rep. Liston and Rep. Galonski) – Health Education Standards
7. HB164 (Rep. Ginter) – Student Religious Liberties Act
8. HB 127 (Reps. Miller & Jones) – Moratorium on Academic Distress Commissions
9. HB239 (Rep. Manning) – Testing Reduction Act
10. HB 322 (Reps. Jones, D. and Manning, D.), which would make our Resident Educator (RE) Program a two-year program in lieu of existing four-year program. The bill would also eliminate the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) and would eliminate any requirement for a performance-based assessment for purposes of the RE Program. Will monitor closely and let you know once a hearing is scheduled for the bill.

B. **Senate**

1. Sub. HB154(Reps. Miller and Jones) – Dissolve and Replace ADC
2. SB 26 (Sen. Kunze) – Tax exemption for Teachers
3. SB 102 (Sens. Brenner and Lehner)—Dyslexia Screening
4. SB134 (Sen. Gavarone) – School Bus Safety
5. SB157 (Sen. Williams) – Enforcing the ‘Eliana Alert’

III. **Next Steps**

A. **State Report Card**

Tony informed the committee that they have begun working with BASA, the other education organizations (OASBO and OSBA), the Ohio 8, Ohio Excels and Fordham on the State Report Card revision process. BASA has developed a white paper on changes and we are going to review that document with the Accountability committee when that group meets later this morning.

We hope to have a crosswalk document that would display where each organization stands on the areas considered. Our hope is to use that document to determine where the groups agree and begin to work on those areas in which we cannot arrive at a consensus.

**B. School Safety/Gun reform**

Jessica indicated that this is an area related to school safety in which several gun reform bills may be introduced during this session. We will be monitoring closely the discussion and possible legislation in terms of how it may affect our members.

**C. School Funding**

Tony indicated that we attended the meeting hosted by the Cupp/Paterson task force that included all of the education organizations. As was indicated above, that group was seeking to determine the level of support by the education organizations for HB305. The discussion did not result in any final action.

In addition to the work being done by the task force, Tony asked the committee to look at the OEPI report that Howard Fleeter had completed that provided an analysis of HB305.

**D. Academic Distress Commission**

Based on the work of the Senate Education Committee, it would appear this is a priority in the Senate and they are getting close to voting on a final version of the ADC legislation sometime over the next two weeks. We have remained close to the conversations around this bill offering our support when necessary.

**IV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be **October 10, 9:30 AM by phone conference.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.