



Accountability Committee

**April 21, 2021
11:15 A.M.**

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on the Zoom conference: Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and members from 16 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by Zoom conference at 11:15 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update the committee on State Report Card revisions and remote learning platforms.

State Report Card Revision – Update

**HB 200 Report Card Reform (Jones)
SB 145 Report Card Reform (Brenner)**

House Bill 200 (Jones/Robinson) has had three hearings to date. Senator Brenner introduced SB 145 this week and Tony has testified on this bill already. Both HB 200 and SB 145 address many of the priorities we set out to achieve when we first started this process, but both have some drawbacks that need to be addressed. Tony and Jessica continue to work with the Senate, House, BASA and a host of stakeholders to bring these two bills together.

House Bill 1 (Fair School Funding) was included in the budget bill (HB 110) last week. The House will be voting this bill out of the House floor later today and then send it on to the Senate.

The Senate Education Committee will be meeting at 4pm today, to hear testimony on the budget. Tony will be testifying on HB 110 tomorrow.

Jessica will keep members posted after the House votes today.

On the school funding side, we had anticipated seeing a stand-alone Senate school funding proposal although this has yet to occur. We still believe the Senate is continuing to work on their own plan. Senator Blessing is taking the lead. The Senate has indicated that they are concerned regarding the 6-year phase in on funding a new formula. We are waiting for specifics, but both the House and Senate still support the direct funding of charter, and vouchers.

During a meeting with superintendents in his area, Senator Dolan voiced concerns about the accuracy of counting enrollment, documenting how funds received are spent for the required purposes and the phase in period in case state finances change in the future. The committee

suggested that we emphasize the use of the Fiscal Oversight Committee as a safeguard to adjusting spending levels in the budgets ahead when discussing this issue related to phasing in the formula.

Jessica will keep members posted on the updates as they happen.

Remote Learning

There are several concerns regarding remote learning platforms and instructional delivery methods for next year such as:

- What are the remote learning options that districts are planning to offer students next school year?
- A concern we may lose students to online platforms that are scholarship based.
- How to deal with families that are reluctant to send students back to school.
- Should we return to the way school was held in the past with all the options that had to be provided during COVID (remote, hybrid, in/out of school, new ways to deliver instruction for students) or should we continue to be innovative and give more options?
- How would this effect cost, staff, students, etc.?
- Will district Board members allow cameras in the classroom for absent students?
- What criteria would have to be met for a student to remain remote?
- What will the unions concerns be and how to meet those concerns?
- Can we collaborate with other districts to offer a particular class like what we used when districts offered distance learning options?

The committee agreed that this should be a topic for discussion at our next meeting as districts begin to finalize what they are planning for the 21-22 school year.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be via Zoom invite on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 11:15am.

The meeting adjourned at noon.