



Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

April 21, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Meeting Summary

In attendance on the Zoom conference: Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and members from 27 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update the committee on HB110 Biennial Budget policy provisions and legislative updates on federal funding, report card reform, and HB200/HB110 testimony.

I. Biennial Budget.

A. HB110 Biennial Budget – House Substitute Version and Omnibus Amendments

- 1. Status of HB 1 Substitute Bill**
- 2. Status Update re: Budget Policy Provisions:**
 - 1. Transportation of Private/Charter Schools Students**
 - 2. Computer Science Education Requirements**
 - 3. FAFSA Initiatives**
 - 4. Graduation Requirements and Citizenship Seal Changes**

The House Finance Committee introduced their substitute version of HB110 which now includes HB 1, the stand-alone school funding bill, along with a variety of other education policy items that were part of the Governor's initial budget proposal. After the substitute version was accepted in the House Finance Committee last Tuesday there have been several hearings. The Omnibus amendments were accepted last night, the budget bill passed out of Committee and is going to the House today for a vote.

The Senate started having informal budget hearings last week and those have continued this week. Tony will give testimony tomorrow. Senate Finance Chairman Dolan started to hear informally from the Executive Branch and the Standing Committees in the Senate are beginning to conduct hearings on the different subject area issues. The State Superintendent is providing testimony today and tomorrow the Ed organizations are invited to give testimony on the budget including the Alliance.

Jessica will circulate Tony's testimony once it is completed.

Tony and Jessica have been working on some high-level policy issues such as the new requirements and deadlines to transport private/charter school students, new requirements around computer science education changes to the Citizenship Seals, and the FAFSA requirement tied to graduation. These will need to be addressed in the Senate.

Jessica will have more budget updates for everyone relating to language as it becomes available and will send a summary out to all members.

II. Legislation

A. SB 111/HB 170 Federal Funding

SB111 and HB170 were introduced a month ago that gives the controlling board and the state the ability to distribute the American Recovery Plan funds to schools. Several concerns are centered around the auditing and use of the funds. ESCs were supposed to receive some of the discretionary funds for doing a variety of things on behalf of the state such as learning recovery and summer programs. This has now become an issue.

B. SB 145/HB 200 Report Card Reform

Tony has given testimony on SB145. Tony will give testimony on HB200 at some point soon. There is more work to do on these bills in terms of reconciling the differences and navigating the political issues between the chambers related to the bills. Jessica will keep members posted.

B. Other

Discussions related to remote learning continue to move forward. Districts will need options so that we do not lose students to outside providers. Parents are asking questions about remote learning and flexibility for the future should schools need to close again. Will students be able to participate in band, sports, etc. if the family does remote only learning? Will there be remote options for students that with long term illnesses?

III. Next Steps:

- A. HB200 Proponent/Interested Party Testimony
- B. HB 110 and School Funding Testimony in Senate
- C. Budget and School Funding Meetings in the Senate

V. Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.