

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

**February 12, 2014
10:45 A.M.
MEETING SUMMARY**

In attendance via phone conference call: Thomas Tucker, Beth Weber, Bpb Hunt, Jenni Logan, Jeff Graham, Brian Wilson, Russ Bennett, Tim Pickana, Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Barbara Adams.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

I. Current Political Landscape/Legislative Initiatives.

A. Administration.

1. Mid-Biennium Budget

As was indicated during our last meeting, the mid-biennium budget review bill is scheduled for introduction sometime in late February. Based on conversations with members of the House and Senate, there are several current bills under consideration that could be added to the MBR as a means to streamline the legislative process. If that is the case, making changes to those specific pieces of legislation, such as the OTES bill, will be much more difficult.

B. Legislative Updates

1. SB 229 - OTES

SB229 is scheduled for sponsor testimony by Senator Gardner in the House Education Committee during its meeting on 2/12/14.

2. HB 193 - Graduation Requirements

HB 193 will be moving to the Senate Education Committee for hearings over the next several weeks.

C. Ohio Department of Education

1. Calamity Days - Testing Extension.

Bills are pending in both the House and Senate to extend the number of calamity days school districts are allowed to use for the current school year. While there appears to be widespread support, we anticipate a number of amendments as the bills move through the legislative process.

Also, the state superintendent has recommended adding a week to the testing window to allow for more time for districts to administer the state tests. Any additional changes would have to be made by the legislature.

II. Legislative Strategies.

A. Foundation Formula

The idea that was discussed at our prior meeting to use a percentage of the base cost amount (opportunity amount – 20%) rather than a specific dollar amount to establish a minimum funding level was shared with the Executive Committee. The committee agreed that using a percentage adopts the concept already incorporated in the formula (5% minimum state share) and shifts the discussion away from a specific dollar amount. The difficulty going forward will be how to balance this concept with the possible elimination of guarantees and remaining TPP reimbursements. We do not want to push for a higher minimum if legislators would use it as an excuse to eliminate guarantees and TPP payments. Timing is critical

Beth Weber indicated that she had heard a presentation by Howard Fleeter on the future of the foundation formula where the elimination of guarantees and the resumption of the TPP phase out were discussed.

B. Dual Credit Option – Funding Rules

The committee spent several minutes discussing the financial impact that the new dual-enrollment rules would have on their districts and Advance Placement programs. It is clear that the rules recommended by the Chancellor would be a deterrent to expanding a dual credit program in public school districts. It was also pointed out that the recommendations would compromise existing AP programs. AP courses are more attractive for students seeking to enroll out of state; while dual credit programs are better suited for those who intend to enroll in Ohio colleges.

Jim indicated that this would be a good time to speak to legislators about how these recommendations are going to be introduced. If they are part of the MBR, it will be more difficult to get changes made, since, in all probability, the issues will not get the hearing time needed to address all the concerns being brought forward. Senator Lehner and Representative Stapelton will be contacts as we move forward. In addition, we will make an outreach to the Budget Director to see if we can gain some insight into whether this will be a component of the MBR.

C. TPP Strategy – Next Budget

As was indicated in our last meeting, now is the time to begin discussions concerning the remaining TPP reimbursement as we inch closer to the development of the next biennium budget. Tim indicated that he would alert his group so that a meeting could be established to develop a common strategy.

III. **Next Steps**

A. **House/Senate**

1. Calamity Day Extension

The House is scheduled to take up the calamity day extension legislation this week.

IV. **Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be **March 12th** at 10:00 a.m. at BASA. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.