



## Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

February 17, 2021  
10:00 a.m.

### Meeting Summary

*In attendance on the Zoom conference:* Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and members from 30 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update the committee on the Biennial Budget and legislative updates.

#### **I. Legislative Update.**

##### **A. House/Senate Leadership and Committee Assignments:**

Committee appointments have been made with Gayle Manning as the Chair of the House Education Committee. Former Superintendent from Clermont County, Adam Bird, is the Vice Chair of the Committee. Sarah Fowler Arthur, former State Board Member, is also on the committee.

Finance Committee appointments had no major changes with Scott Oelslager remaining the Chair.

Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education now has Tracy Richardson as Chair. Daniel Troy, Brian Baldrige, Jamie Callender, and Bride Rose Sweeney are the other members of this group.

##### **B. FY22/FY23 Biennial Budget**

The Governor introduced the budget on February 1st starting with fiscal portion of the budget called the blue book. The policy language associated with the budget bill was released late on Thursday last week.

One of the new policy requirements from the Governor is the addition of a computer science requirement at the high school level. The Governor would like a statewide plan for Computer science education that would provide all students with access to the course. Jessica will send a summary of the requirements for the computer science proposal.

The other provisions include a P-Tech Program and the creation of a partnership with K-12, Community Colleges, and business employers in creating a 6-year high school/associate degree in the STEM field.

Changes to requirements for schools to provide transportation for students at private schools and community schools and changes to payments in lieu of transportation provision.

Higher Education initiatives around FSFA completion which will require K-12 school districts to enter data sharing agreements with the Department of Higher Education.

Changes with respect to how auxiliary service dollars go to Private Schools.  
New enforcement language around licensure and educator misconduct issues.

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

### **C. State Report Card Reform**

Tony and Jessica are still working on this priority and we hope to see it completed and passed as part of the budget. It is likely there will be two competing report card bills, one in the Senate and one in the House, however, we believe most of the language in the bills will be similar around changes made to the individual components. There is still disagreement around how the overall summative rating of the system should be designed.

### **D. HB 1 Fair Funding Formula**

Jamie Callender and Bride Rose Sweeney are the new sponsors of HB1 which is the school funding bill HB305 from last General Assembly.

### **E. HB 67 Waive State Testing Requirements**

HB 67 is currently having hearings. The bill would require the Department of Education to request a federal waiver for Spring testing. If the federal waiver is not approved, the bill is also calling for delaying state testing and offering some flexibility for the Spring testing window. Districts would like to have flexibility for testing or the ability to use their local test data.

### **F. SB1 Financial Literacy**

SB 1 has started to have hearings in the Senate Education committee, this is a reintroduced bill from last General Assembly, sponsored by Senator Wilson and Senator McCulley. Senator Wilson's bill requires teaching a required .5 elective credit on finance at the high school level, beginning with the 2020/21 school year.

### **G. SB 37 COVID19 Education Provisions**

Senator Manning and Senator Fedor introduced SB37 which is similar to SB358 that was discussed during Lane Duck. This bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee.

## **II. Budget and HB1 Testimony in House Finance Subcommittee Primary and Secondary Education.**

We are focused on the budget and HB1 testimony and will keep our members posted on updates. We will need to ask for the 1.1 billion dollars to fund an operational formula for schools to fully implement the school funding formula.

**III. HB67 Testimony related to Testing Reduction and COVID Extensions.**

A copy of the testimony was sent to all members for their review.

**V. Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 10am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.