



## Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

March 17, 2021

10:00 a.m.

### Meeting Summary

*In attendance on the Zoom conference:* Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and members from 29 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 policy implications of HB110 Biennial Budget and legislative updates on Covid, Graduation Pathways and school funding.

#### **I. Current Political Landscape / Legislative Initiatives.**

##### **A. HB110 Biennial Budget – Policy Implications**

- 1. Transportation**
- 2. Computer Science Education**
- 3. Graduation Requirements (FAFSA)**
- 4. Citizenship/American History Seal Change**

Tony and Jessica continue to meet with the House leadership alerting them to some of the concerns with policy changes that have been proposed by the Governor. The language modifying the requirements for the transportation of students to private/community schools is potentially problematic.

There is language related to a new Computer Science Education requirement for high school students in the bill. Computer Science requires schools to give students access for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. A working group will decide on state-wide requirements.

There has been concern expressed around provisions in the bill related to FSFA completion which will require K-12 school districts make FAFSA completion a requirement for graduation.

Once the budget moves out of the House and on to the Senate, we anticipate the Senate will address the school funding formula during their budget deliberations. The House will continue to work on the budget through the month and is scheduled to vote the budget out of the House on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

## **B. 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. There will be two competing report card bills, one in the Senate which has yet to be dropped and HB200 in the House. HB200 was introduced last week by Rep. Jones and Rep. Robinson. Jessica and Tony had a meeting with Rep. Jones on Tuesday to discuss the bill and what the next steps will be in terms of scheduling testimony.

The Alliance will offer testimony as proponents to this bill as well as the bill that comes out of the Senate that we have been working on with the other educational organizations. Although we will be proponents for both bills, there are components in each bill that still need to be worked on. For example, there will need to be more discussion on the change to using descriptions vs grades on the overall report card. The Literacy component in HB200 does not match what is in the Senate version and we would still like the Prepared for Success section be a report only.

The goal is to get both bills out and hold hearings, identify areas of agreement and disagreement, and then sit down and try to craft a final version. If all goes as planned, this could be added to the budget bill and then passed in July. If not, we may be missing a golden opportunity to get significant reform accomplished related to the report card.

## **II. Legislative Strategies**

### **A. Priority Policy Issues:**

#### **1. HB 67 COVID Flexibility/ Graduation Pathways**

HB 67 passed the House on Thursday, March 11th. The bill had several final amendments added in the Senate Education Committee including a provision to allow students to graduate under the state minimum course requirement with the completion of the Ohio Means Job Readiness Seal. We are anticipating that the bill will be voted out of the Senate this afternoon, including the emergency clause, and then go back to the House to for final approval. Once that is done it can be sent to the Governor's Office by the end of this week for his signature.

Jessica will keep members posted once the bill has been signed.

#### **2. HB 1 School Funding – minimum Funding Level (5%)**

Rep. Callender spoke to Jessica and indicated the plan is to pass the bill outside of the budget bill process before the legislative spring break which is the week of Easter.

### **B. House Education Committee – Rep. Gayle Manning, Chair**

No items to report.

## **C. Senate Education Committee – Sen. Brenner, Chair**

### **1. SB1 Financial Literacy**

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. Members have expressed concern about the impact this requirement would have on electives and how this would sequence with the other required courses.

### **III. Next Steps:**

- A. Testimony related to HB200 and the Senate version of the State Report Card.
- B. Remote Learning Guidelines and legislative authority for the 2021-22 school year'

### **V. Next Meeting.**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 10am.  
The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.