

# Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

## Zoom Meeting for all members

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

10:00 A.M.

### MEETING SUMMARY

*In attendance on video conference:* Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and member representatives from 49 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The primary focus of the meeting was to update Alliance members regarding the most recent legislative activity including bills pending related to state redistricting maps, property valuation challenges, teaching race theory, curriculum transparency, teacher shortages and tutoring.

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

1. Redistricting and Status of May 3 Primary
2. HB 126 Property Valuation Challenges and Ballot Language—still awaiting House Concurrence Vote
3. HB 327 Prohibitions Related to Teaching Race Theory—see sub bill comparative document attached
4. HB 529 Curriculum Transparency
5. SB 178 and HB 298 regarding Education Governance/SBOE
6. HB 290 Backpack Bill—see sub bill attached
7. Preschool Rule Changes
8. Teacher Shortages - Manning IP Meeting
9. Tutoring - Brenner

#### **Redistricting and Status of May 3 Primary**

The redistricting process is ongoing, Jessica will update once there is clarity and official maps and the new districts have been approved. As reported, it has been a lengthy, messy and frustrating process so far that has involved numerous maps creations triggered by the State Supreme Court rulings.

#### **HB 126 Property Valuation Challenges and Ballot Language-still awaiting House Concurrence Vote**

The House still needs to concur on the Senate amendments to the bill. This bill will likely be sent to a conference committee. Jessica will update as more information is available.

#### **HB 327 Prohibitions Related to Teaching Race Theory—see sub bill comparative document attached**

The House State and Local Government Committee did accept a sub bill on HB 327 on Wednesday last week, there was no testimony. The sub bill did not substantially change the content and intent of the original legislation to any great extent. Jessica will keep members posted.

## **HB 529 Curriculum Transparency**

Rep. Manning is having the legislative service commission conduct a fiscal analysis on the bill. Until that is completed, we are not anticipating additional hearings in the near future.

## **SB 178 and HB 298 regarding Education Governance/SBOE**

These bills are structured to redefine the responsibilities of the State Board of Education and the role of the new State Superintendent. There will be ongoing changes regarding the roles of the State Superintendent and the SBOE if these bills are passed as anticipated. Once the bills have been dropped, they will be shared with members.

## **HB 290 Backpack Bill- see sub bill attached**

The House Finance Committee had a hearing on this bill last week. Jessica will keep members updated on this bill. At this point, it does not appear to be on a front burner, and we don't anticipate additional hearings during this session.

## **Preschool Rule Changes**

Jessica has been involved with the ESC's regarding clarity of the issue related to balancing attendance numbers in each unit and will keep members posted.

## **Teacher Shortages -Manning IP Meeting**

Gail Manning brought together a group of interested parties to brainstorm ideas and is trying to find solutions for this issue. Jessica is trying to schedule a meeting with Gail Manning next week and will keep members posted.

## **Tutoring – Brenner**

Sen. Brenner is very concerned about learning loss due to covid and is promoting ways to provide additional tutoring options for schools. He has been talking to the ESC centers regarding additional funding needs and how the ESC can help with the recruitment and training of tutors. SB308 has been introduced it is a bill that would require the Chancellor of The Department of Higher Education to establish a program for tutoring and provide some funding for staff to become qualified as a tutor.

## **II. Coronavirus Update**

1. HB 51 Remote Meeting Flexibility effective 2/17/2022
2. Extended Learning Funding
3. Ongoing Legislative Conversations regarding extending graduation flexibility for this year's senior class

## **HB 51 Remote Meeting Flexibility effective 2/17/2022**

HB 51 has been signed by the Governor which thereby, as indicated by the emergency clause, provides an immediate option for conducting video conference meetings for school boards thru June 30, 2022.

## **Extended Learning Funding**

These funds will be allocated for summer programming thru the ESCs and will be spent over the next three years.

## **Ongoing Legislative Conversations regarding extending graduation flexibility for this year's senior class**

Jessica is verifying that districts will have the same graduation flexibility options provided to them for the 2021 graduation class for the 2022 graduating class. It would appear, based on a conversation with the Governor's office, the option is carried over.

### **III. ODE/State Board of Education**

1. State Superintendent Search – Timeline
2. State Report Card Rule Making Process – Update
3. Dyslexia Guidebook

#### **State Superintendent Search – Timeline**

The search process will continue to unfold in the coming months. The board has not discussed or approved a search firm. Steve Dackin has resigned from his position as Vice President of ODE. The March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline date, for all intents and purposes, will likely be extended.

#### **State Report Card Rule Making Process – Update**

The rule revisions, being considered by the State Board, are now available for review, Tony and Jessica will put together a response on the behalf of the Alliance following the State Board meeting in March inn which it is anticipated that the rules will be approved.

#### **Dyslexia Guidebook**

The Dyslexia group would like to see the guidebook be considered more of a requirement rather than simply a guide. The state board has been reviewing the document over the last several months and should have further discussions during their next meeting. Jessica will be sending updates to all members

### **IV. Next Steps:**

#### **1. Capital Budget**

The Legislative schedule is behind due to the redistricting. The Capital Bill cycle will be different this year, the intention is for the legislature, before they break in April, to complete the Capital Bill re-appropriation but not to work on new Capital Bill appropriation and funding until after the Primary.

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

The next meeting will be held April 20, 2022, at 10:00am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.