

Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

Zoom Meeting for all members

Friday, March 25, 2022

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on video conference: Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and member representatives from 42 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, HB 327, HB 529, 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

Redistricting and Status of May 3 Primary

The redistricting process is ongoing, they have until Monday the 28th to produce the fourth attempt, Jessica will update once there is clarity and official maps and the new districts have been approved. As reported, it has been a messy and frustrating process so far. It is still TBD if we will have a May 3rd Primary

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

The House did not concur, and the bill is now in conference committee; Jessica does not anticipate the committee will meet to resolve the issues with the bill until the Fall. Jessica will update as more information is available.

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

HB 327 is at a standstill as of now. Jessica will keep members posted.

HB 529 Curriculum Transparency

Jessica will update members once this bill has a hearing. It is currently not schedule to be heard in committee but that could change in the next week or two.

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

This bill has had one hearing. Jessica will keep members posted.

II. Coronavirus Update

1. Ongoing Legislative Conversations regarding extending graduation flexibility for this year's senior class
2. HB583 Educator Licenses and Substitute Teachers
3. ESSR Funding Extension - Waiver

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

Jessica is assessing the possibility of extending the graduation flexibility options provided to them for the 2021 graduation class to the 2022 graduating class. It would appear, based on a conversation with the Governor's office, while the option carried over, it may not be sufficient to meet the needs of this class of students. We are working with the Urban 8 to determine if they are experiencing the same level of concern in order to partner on a solution.

HB583 Educator Licenses and Substitute Teachers

HB583 will move from the House floor for a vote next week and then head to the Senate. The bill is asking to extend the temporary law for 2 years for substitute teachers. Jessica will share the updated bill once it is available.

ESSR Funding Extension - Waiver

Tony spoke with Aaron Rausch in which he clarified that while the Fed deadlines are not negotiable, a waiver request can be made to extend those deadlines. Aaron felt it was premature to seek that waiver at the present time but could be done closer to the funding deadlines. He indicated that he would notify us when would be the best time to request the waiver.

III. ODE/State Board of Education

1. State Superintendent Search – Timeline
2. State Report Card Rule Adoption
3. Dyslexia Guidebook – Update
4. Transportation rules – 10-day Penalty Scheduling
5. Early Childhood Rules

State Superintendent Search – Timeline

We believe the next step will be to interview candidates selected from those who have applied. We have heard that the list is down to six although we are not aware of who is on that list. The board plans to meet next week to plan the interview process.

State Report Card Rule Adoption

The rule revisions, being considered by the State Board, have been approved, a final copy will be sent to members.

Dyslexia Guidebook Update

The state board and their committee working in the guidebook have been struggling to reconcile whether the guidebook is a set of suggestions versus requirements. At the last board meeting, the board did not agree to the changes proposed and they moved the guidebook back to the committee for further discussion. Districts are still responsible for screening etc. Jessica will update once available.

Transportation rules – 10-day Penalty Scheduling

Modifications to the language have been proposed related to the 10-day rule and the subsequent penalties. Tony is working with the Urban 8 to craft a set of changes addressing that as well as the overall issues related to scheduling and bell schedules.

Early Childhood Rules

ODE is working with the field to revise the rules related to the new 50/50 requirements. Jessica will continue to be a participant in those discussions and will share any updates as they come forward.

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 legislature has completed the Capital Bill re-appropriation but will not 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 11:10 a.m.