

# Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

## Zoom Meeting for all members

**Friday, October 28, 2022**

**10:00 A.M.**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

*In attendance on video conference:* Tony Podojil, legislative consultant William Schwartz and member representatives from 40 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 listed below.

#### **I. Bills Need to Be Prepared to Discuss for Lame Duck Session.**

##### **1. HB 606- Seizure Safe Act: Passed the House on May 25: Referred to Senate Education Committee**

Would require schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder and have at least one employee trained in implementing such plans. Rumored as the preferred lame-duck legislative vehicle.

##### **2. HB 616 – CRT/’Don’t Say Gay’ Bill: This legislation was referred to the House State & Local Government Committee and had its first hearing/sponsor testimony on May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

It would take a massive lift for this legislation, or components of it, to cross the finish line before the new year. Neither bill on this topic, including HB 322 and HB 327, have passed out of committee, and Senate President Matt Huffman has been on record stating these are issues best handled at the local level and with the State Board of Education through its standards adoption process.

##### **3. HB 529 – Curriculum Transparency: This legislation has had two hearings in House Education Community.**

No movement since the Spring but expect this topic to be discussed during the budget deliberations as the national movement and conversation on parents’ rights persist.

##### **4. HB 497 – Third Grade Reading Guarantee: Passed the House on June 1; Interested Party Meeting scheduled for next week.**

The House has approved a major change to the Kasich-era third grade reading guarantee law via HB497. The bill would end the requirement that students who fall short of the promotion score on the third-grade English language arts test be retained in third grade. It also would cut administration of the third-grade test from twice to once per year. The legislation would maintain the requirement that schools test early elementary students for reading and provide intervention and remediation services to those who are reading below grade level.

A proposed resolution in support of HB 497 is pending before the State Board of Education and OEA/OFT are continuing their push to advance the bill. Led by Sen. Brenner, the

bill does not have much life in its current form and the opposition by Fordham and Ohio Excels reduces its chances for success.

**5. HB 151 – Resident Educator/RESA: Informally Passed the House on June 1**

The House also passed changes to the Ohio Teacher Residency Program, a four-year mentoring and professional development regimen for beginning teachers, via HB151 (Jones). Among other changes, the bill allows mentoring to happen both online and in person, prohibits placing a limit on how many times someone can try to pass the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA), and cuts from four years to two the alternative resident educator license, available to people who did not complete a traditional teacher preparation program but met other educational requirements.

Senate President Matt Huffman has said he disagreed with the way in which HB 61 was included in HB 151 and expects his chamber will pursue their own version of HB 61: SB 132, sponsored by Sen. Kristina Roegner. OHSAA has been meeting extensively with lawmakers on both proposals and explaining its policies.

**6. HB 554 – Temporary Educator Licenses: Passed the House on May 25; Referred to Senate Education Committee**

Would allow those with expired teacher licenses to apply for temporary licenses to address teacher shortages. This bill could be a potential legislative vehicle for other lame-duck changes.

**7. HB 492 – Mental Health Training for Athletic Coaches: Passed the House on June 1**

Would require school sports coaches to undergo training on student mental health.

**8. HB 123 – Community Reinvestment Areas: Passed House May 26, 2021, pending in Senate Ways and Means**

Potential vehicle for tax-related changes. Would increase threshold from 50% to 75% for school board approval on community reinvestment area (CRA) projects, eliminate notice to school districts on CRA items, and modify income-sharing agreements for CRAs. Bill sponsor lost primary election and will not return to legislature, so could be a parting gift from leadership to move the bill forward.

**9. Storm Shelters**

The current moratorium on the requirement to build storm shelters when constructing new school buildings expires on November 30. Led by Sen. Tim Schaffer, the Senate may include an extension of this moratorium into one of the lame-duck legislative vehicles, which would expire on 12/31/24.

**10. Raffles**

The Senate intends to correct a budget item oversight in which the ability for school districts and others to legally conduct raffles was eliminated. Senate President Huffman has expressed approval for the change.

## **11. ODE Lame Duck Priorities**

ODE is reportedly working on two issues for the lame duck session: a correction to the law regarding graduation requirements for chartered nonpublic (private) schools and revising the Afterschool Childhood Enrichment (ACE) program by increasing the eligibility from 300% to 400% of the federal poverty level and increasing the annual, per-pupil amounts from \$500 to \$1,000. Participation in the program is significantly low, and ODE and the Senate are keen on broadening access as the funds must be expended by 9/30/24.

## **II. Legislative Update**

### **1. Fair Funding – Next Biennial**

Tony shared several conversations he has had with members of the general assembly related to what we might expect when the next budget deliberations begin next year. Based on those conversations, it appears that there is some support for continuing the funding formula phase in through the next biennium. The complexities related to changing formulas, as revealed in the latest iteration along with a need to see how the provisions of this method play out, should provide the support to continue on the present course.

The recent property reevaluations that have occurred and the levels of increases (20 – 35% in some areas), will have a profound impact on the formula since property value wealth is directly tied to the state aid equation. Without a corresponding increase in the pupil allocation, state share will fall for those districts impacted by the reevaluation. Discussions are occurring related to developing some guard rails on both sides of the ledger, per pupil increases tied to teacher salary and significant shifts in property and/or income wealth.

In addition to the above, Tony noted that we will continue to need to advocate for an increase in the minimum funding level from its current base of 5%. With the phase in proceeding as scheduled, the guarantees built into that phase in will eventually be phased out leaving districts with actual calculations.

This concept also applies to our members ability to participate in the OFFC program since the minimum level of participation is also set at 5% rendering participation in the program beyond the reach of a majority of our members.

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

### **Title IX Board Resolution – Shea**

The State Board of Education Executive Committee will discuss the Title IX resolution at its Oct. 31 meeting.

#### **1. Transportation**

Discussion on transportation issues, including the compliance and monitoring system, continues. The Alliance is working with the Ohio 8 and non-traditional education groups to find an acceptable compromise system, similar to the payment-in-lieu-of process, under which a mediation process would occur.

#### **2. Dyslexia PD Requirements**

Discussion occurred on the number of professional development requirements, specifically on dyslexia and whether preexisting professional development opportunities satisfy any of the new 18-hour requirements. Updates will follow once more information is gathered from ODE staff.

**3. School Safety Procedures**

Discussion occurred the new school safety training in response to questions on potentially duplicative requirements. Tony will be following up with Marjorie Yano with Gov. DeWine's office.

**IV. Next Steps**

**1. Preparing for Lame Duck**

**IV. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be TBD

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.