

Legislative/Systems Improvement Committee

Zoom Meeting for all members

Friday, September 30, 2022

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on video conference: Tony Podojil, and member representatives from 27 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.

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 31st.

3. HB 529 – Curriculum Transparency:

This legislation has had two hearings in House Education Community.

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.

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

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.

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

II. Legislative Update

1. State Report Card

Tony asked the committee for feedback on the new report cards. Members agreed that Stars are better than grades but would still like to see improvement on literacy measures.

2. 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.

II. ODE/State Board of Education

Tony stated the below are the ODE's priorities:

1. Literacy
2. Accelerated Learning
3. Workforce Readiness
4. Student Wellness

IV. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 10/27/2022

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.