



Week of March 11, 2024

DEW holds public meeting

As part of its bimonthly public meeting requirement, the Department of Education and Workforce met Thursday to provide an overview of the state's literacy implementation efforts and discuss pending administrative rules. Led off by opening remarks from Director **Steve Dackin**, Chief of Literacy Dr. **Melissa Weber-Mayrer** outlined the results of the survey released last week on school districts' use of instructional materials, professional development, and literacy coaches. She also discussed the timeline for approved intervention materials and additional professional development opportunities. A copy of the meeting materials is [accessible here](#).

DeWine, Husted urge schools to ban cell phones

Gov. Mike DeWine and **Lt. Gov. Jon Husted** this week joined superintendents, principals, state agency heads, and others to discuss their goal that schools limit or prohibit the use of cell phones in schools. Held at Alliance member Dublin City Schools, the event featured remarks from **Daniel Buck**, of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, who discussed research and history around cell phones in schools and called for a ban. The panel then discussed local school policies on their cell phone restrictions and what they learned throughout the process.

DeWine and Husted are not calling for a state-level ban or restriction on local schools' cell phone policies. "I just don't think that we're at a point yet in the state where we're in a position to do this," said DeWine in a press gaggle after the event. "I think the schools that look at the evidence in this case, and that's really what we're asking them to do -- look at the evidence -- I think they're going to find that this is the right thing to do."

State Board of Education holds monthly meeting

The State Board of Education held its monthly meeting on Monday where it continued discussions on the multi-million-dollar shortfall facing the panel. In a veiled reference to Senate President **Matt Huffman**, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Paul Craft** told board members that the panel was "accused of vastly expanding" the agency's staff. Huffman has previously stated that, while a licensure fee increase was not necessary, perhaps the agency's staffing could be addressed by eliminating or outsourcing staff. Craft and the board continue to advocate for the legislature to provide \$10 million to the panel before it departs for summer recess in June.

DeWine signs capitalism and financial literacy legislation

Gov. **Mike DeWine** on Wednesday signed into law [Senate Bill 17](#), which requires capitalism to be incorporated into the state's financial literacy standards and model curricula. The bill requires the State Board of Education to make these changes, rather than the Department of Education and Workforce, which now has standards and curricula adoption under its purview as a result of the biennial budget bill changes. A corrective amendment is expected to be included in a bill at some point this year, though the passage of the larger measure is uncertain due to the political infighting between the House and Senate.

Heard around the Statehouse

"What is required is for proponents and opponents of the current voucher system to come together and develop a common set of accountability standards similar to those in other democracies that fund public, private and religious schools, to reinforce a collective set of values for a more democratic and humane society. With such a strong accountability system, we can promote innovation and policies to

help this fractured world develop the next generation of students.” - **Susan Tave Zelman**, former Superintendent of Public Instruction under two Republican governors, [arguing in a Cleveland.com op-ed piece](#) for increased accountability for private school voucher programs.

“When we are accused of vastly expanding the manning of the State Board of Education, those three positions ... that's the expansion of the State Board of Education. There are no other positions that have been added to the table of organization from what it has been in previous years, and those three are just so we can continue to operate as an independent organization.” - **Paul Craft**, Superintendent of Public Instruction.