

## Legislative/System Improvements Committee

### Zoom Meeting Summary

Friday, April 26, 2024

10:00 a.m.

*In attendance on video conference:* Executive Director Tony Podojil, legislative consultant William Schwartz and member representatives from 48 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. MAJOR BILLS UNDER CONSIDERATION

- a. **HB2 Capital Appropriations Bill (House)**  
The Senate has not yet taken action on any capital appropriations measure except for HB 27 when it sent a partial capital budget measure to the House. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Matt Dolan is still reviewing capital budget requests and a package is expected to be unveiled at the end of May.
- b. **HB27 Capital Appropriations Bill (Senate)**  
The Senate in February sent HB 27 to the House with partial capital budget spending, including \$600 million in school facilities funding via the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. This action appears in response to the House's passage of HB 2, to which the Senate via Senate President publicly objected. Chairman Dolan is likely to unveil the Senate's capital spending and One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund spending in late May.
- c. **HB 8 Parents Bill of Rights**  
The bill is still pending a committee vote in the Senate. It is expected the bill will be passed in the coming weeks before the summer recess.
- d. **HB 183 The Bathroom Bill**  
The bill was passed out of the House Higher Education Committee on April 10. A House vote is imminent and will likely occur before the summer recess.
- e. **HB 187 Property Tax Homestead Exemption**  
The bill is still awaiting a House concurrence vote after the Senate passed the bill on December 6. It is unlikely the House will pass the bill in its current form.
- f. **HB 250 – Military Diploma Seal and Cell Phone Policy**  
The bill passed the Senate unanimously on April 24 and returns to the House for concurrence vote. It's likely the House will pass the bill at its next session, sending it to Gov. DeWine for his signature.
- g. **HB 339 – Education Savings Accounts**  
The bill is still pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and is awaiting a third hearing for all testimony, which could occur before the summer recess.
- h. **HB 344 – Capitalism and financial literacy**  
The bill was amended to reduce the bill's penalties and require complainants to file an affidavit indicating whether or not they are filing on behalf of a school district. The bill is pending a committee vote, which is expected to occur at its April 30 meeting.
- i. **HB 407 – Private School Accountability and Transparency**  
The bill received sponsor testimony and is expected to receive proponent testimony in late May.
- j. **HB 432 – Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility**  
The bill received proponent testimony this week and is expected to undergo modifications and likely passage out of committee before the summer recess.
- k. **HB 445 – Required Religious Release Time Policy**  
The bill received sponsor testimony in the House but has yet to receive another hearing for proponent testimony.
- l. **SB 17 Capitalism and Financial Literacy**  
Gov. Mike DeWine signed the bill into law, which now is effective June 12, 2024
- m. **SB 29 Student Technology Records**  
The bill received sponsor testimony in the House but is still pending a second hearing in House committee.

- n. **SB 49 Student Attendance Policies**  
The bill is still pending in House committee where it last received a hearing in September of 2023. It is unlikely this bill advances before the summer recess.
- o. **SB 104 – College Credit Plus**  
The bill, which passed the Senate in February, is pending a committee referral in the House. A companion bill, HB 219, is pending in House committee.
- p. **SB 162 Academic Intervention Plans**  
The bill that requires academic intervention plans awaits a first hearing in the House after being passed by the Senate in 2023.
- q. **SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility**  
The bill received proponent testimony from the Alliance and other statewide education associations. Several additional hearings on this bill are expected with at least one hearing devoted to accepting amendments on various provisions in the bill.
- r. **SB 205 – Drug Prevention Education**  
The bill was amended in Senate committee last week and awaits a fourth hearing and vote in the committee, which is expected before the summer recess.
- s. **SB 208 – Open Enrollment for Military Children**  
The bill received a third hearing last week with minimal testimony. A vote is likely to occur before the summer recess.

## II. RECENTLY INTRODUCED BILLS

- a. HB 386 (Mathews/Lampton) - Phase-out of State Income Tax
- b. HB 387 (McNally/Brent) - Dissolve Academic Distress Commissions
- c. HB 402 (Schmidt) - Property Tax Reduction
- d. HB 407 (Manning/Seitz) - Private School Accountability and Transparency
- e. HB 408 (Brewer/Mohamed) - Meals for Students
- f. HB 411 (Miller) - Increase Base Teacher Salary to \$50,000
- g. HB 432 (Jones) - Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility
- h. HB 436 (Piccolantonio/Carruthers) - Remote Services from Support Staff
- i. HB 440 (Fowler/Lear) - Remote Services for Voucher Programs
- j. HB 445 (Cutrona/Click) - Required Religious Release Time
- k. HB 447 (Loychik) - Homestead Exemption, 20-Mill Floor, and CAUV
- l. HB 468 (Klopfenstein/Brennan) - Patriotic Groups Access to Students
- m. HB 470 (Miller) - Audit of State Assessment System
- n. HB 485 (Young/Plummer) Cell Phone Policy and Social Media Instruction
- o. HB 50 - (Seitz/Humphrey) Property Tax Exemption
- p. HB 230 - (Abrams/Swearingen) Fentanyl Education Instruction
- q. SB 216 (Lang/S.Huffman) - Phase-out of State Income Tax
- r. SB 219 (Ingram) - Grade Band Licensure
- s. SB 244 (Reynolds/Craig) - Geographically Targeted Property Tax Exemptions

## III. DEW/STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- 1. Dackin March Meeting Update
- 2. Right To Read Event - 4/17/24  
The Right to Read Event flyer was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

## VI. OTHER ISSUES

- a. **2024 State of the State**  
Gov. Mike DeWine held his 2024 State of the State address focusing largely on children's and education issues and announced various K-12 policy proposals. No legislation has been introduced yet to enact his recommendation, except for a school cellphone policy proposal.
- b. **Senate Select Committee on Housing**  
The committee submitted its recommendations, many of which are being drafted as standalone legislation (SB 243 (zoning), SB 244 (partial property tax exemption), SB 245 (housing laws), SB 249 (grants for property taxes).

c. **Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform**

The committee heard testimony from school treasurers, superintendents, and a former Tax Department employee at its April 24 meeting. A report from the committee is due by December 31, 2024.

**V. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is May 24, 2024, via zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.