

CCSBLC Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. Bill Wood, CCSBLC Chair, Avon Grove School District
2. Stacy Stone, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
3. Kate Shaw, West Chester Area School District
4. Dave Kronenberg, Kennett Consolidated School District
5. Scott Overland, Phoenixville Area School District
6. Jeff Hellrung, Unionville-ChaddsFSD
7. Brian Fox, Octorara School District
8. William Kloss, Oxford Area School District
9. Linda MacNeal, Downingtown Area School District
10. John Melniczek. Owen J. Roberts
11. Dr. George Fiore, Executive Director, CCIU

Absent: Wendy Litzke, Great Valley School District

CCIU Staff in Attendance: Mary Jeanne Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions; Melissa Smith, Assistant Director of Communications and Learning Solutions and Haley Taylor, Communications Specialist

1. Bill Wood, interim CCSBLC Chair, School Director, called the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Bill Wood welcomed everyone, and members introduced themselves.
2. The CCSBLC appointed Bill Wood, Avon Grove School District, chair for CCSBLC. Mr. Wood had been serving as interim since November 2021.
3. The CCSBLC welcomed seven new members to the council including:
 - a. Stacy Stone, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
 - b. Scott Overland, Phoenixville Area School District
 - c. Jeff Hellrung, Unionville-ChaddsFSD
 - d. Brian Fox, Octorara School District
 - e. William Kloss, Oxford Area School District
 - f. Linda MacNeal, Downingtown Area School District
 - g. John Melniczek. Owen J. Roberts
4. Mary Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions, began the meeting by giving a brief overview of the legislative process.
 - a. The governor's office, the senate (50 seats) 26 votes is the majority, the house of representatives (203 seats in Pennsylvania – one of the largest in the nation) 102 votes is the majority, Board of Education, Department of Education.
 - b. It takes about 18 months for a bill to become a law.
 - a. Fast tracking a bill can be as quick as 2-3 weeks
 1. House education, consideration, second consideration (can amend the bill), third is amendment or final consideration.
 2. If passed, sent to another chamber, and will need to go through an additional 3 rounds of consideration.
 3. Governor has 10 days to sign a bill. If signed, the bill will become a law, or the Governor can veto the bill and will need 2/3 vote from the

house and senate to override the veto. No action is an action. If the bill is not signed in ten days, it automatically becomes a law.

- c. Tracking legislation:
 - a. Share legislative updates to Superintendents and Job-Alike groups.
 1. Tailor important legislative topics to those job-alike groups
 - b. 343 education bills filed, only 7 bills enacted.
5. Four pieces of legislation that are looking to change the constitutional amendment
 - a. Must pass both chambers in two executive sessions.
 - b. Needs to take a minimum of 2 and a half years to change the constitution
 - c. Goes through another session before a referendum
 - a. i.e., limiting Governor's Powers
 - d. Goes to the next general election
 - a. Historically, referendums get passed by a very small percentage during primaries in an off-year election.
6. Closing out 2021
 - a. **HB1332: Empowering Parents with Curriculum Transparency**
 - a. *Governor vetoed the bill on December 22, 2021*
 - b. **HB412: Substitute Teacher Bill now Act 91 of 2021: For school years 2021-22 and 2022-23:**
 - a. Retired teachers are now eligible to fill teacher vacancies on an emergency or short-term basis.
 - b. Schools can use eligible college students and recent graduates of education programs to serve as substitute teachers.
 - c. Educators with active Pennsylvania certificates and those with comparable out-of-state certificates can serve as day-to-day substitutes for 20 days, or longer under certain circumstances.
 - d. Teachers with inactive certificates may substitute for 180 days instead of 90 days per school year.
 - e. Individuals who are 25 or older, have at least 60 college credits or 3 years of experience as a paraprofessional, and complete training on classroom management, may serve as "classroom monitors" by delivering preplanned assignments for a teacher.
7. Current legislative topics:
 - a. **SB324: Foster Children & Graduation:** The bill aims to keep students on track to graduate high school who are either experiencing homelessness or are in foster care by requiring a receiving school entity to designate a point person for the student. *Passed the House and Senate; in the hands of the Governor until January 28.*
 - b. **HB2045: Early Literacy Program:** The bill develops a statewide early literacy program focused on the "Science of Reading," an evidence-based reading instructional practice that integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling and writing.
 - a. It is optional and a pilot at this stage
 - c. **HB232: Changing a District Name:** Requires a 2/3 vote of the School Board and approval of PDE
 - a. For two districts in particular that would like to change their name
 - d. **HB 2148: Public Notice Requirements:** The bill allows a political subdivision that pays to advertise a public notice in a newspaper to also advertise that notice on the Internet and, in the event that the newspaper fails to publish the advertisement in a timely manner, provides that the Internet advertisement (a "redundant" advertisement)

is considered timely published provided the political subdivision can show proof that it purchased the newspaper advertisement in a timely manner. An amendment filed to the bill would allow local governments, including school districts, to publish their meeting notifications online and remove the print requirement. The PA News Media Association opposes the amendment, so we don't know if there would be a consensus on it.

- e. **SB 745: Right-to-Know Exemptions:** The bill exempts public employee birthdates from access by a requester under Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law.
 - a. Two other Right-to-Know bills expecting floor action in the spring
- f. **HB 1330: Supplemental Online Course Initiative.** The bill establishes a two-phase implementation schedule for an online course clearinghouse, which would first offer free courses related to content tested by the Keystone Exams. In the second phase, the clearinghouse would also offer other approved online courses aligned with PA education standards from providers, subject to purchase through contract. HB 1330 also requires the PDE to construct the clearinghouse, provide information to users about each course, and offer the opportunity for school entities to provide feedback and a rating for such courses. In addition, the bill would provide public schools with the flexibility to utilize courses made available through a school entity, the clearinghouse, or any other source. When a school entity decides to offer students the opportunity to participate in online courses, the bill would require the school entity to establish its own policies and procedures governing eligibility and participation and make parents and students aware of the opportunity. Finally, the bill provides for an application development and approval process, parameters for purchasing courses, penalties, and the issuance of a report regarding the program.
 - a. Cyber Charters are the biggest providers of these courses
 - b. The bill requires the district to create their own policies and procedures regarding the courses and they must be clearly communicated to parents and students.
 - c. Allows a school district to purchase PDE-approved curriculum to provide online offerings in addition to the courses set in place at a traditional brick-and-mortar school.
- g. **HR 163: Training Mandates.** The resolution directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to study all of the training mandates for public school educators in federal and state law or regulations; prepare an assessment of all training mandates in state law or regulations and identify any duplicate federal and state training mandates; evaluate any potential negative impacts of eliminating certain training mandates in state law or regulations; and include any recommendations relating to eliminating any training mandates in state law or regulations. The Commission would be required to issue a report of the advisory committee's findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than 18 months from the adoption of the resolution.
- h. **HB 1254: Vouchers; on second consideration in the House.** The bill would amend the School Code to include a new Section 1507, to be entitled "In-Person Instruction or Tuition Grant Program Required." Under proposed Section 1507, within 30 days of the bill's effective date, a school district that does not provide full-time, in-person instruction, or that denies a student residing in the school district full-time, in-person instruction in the school district, must establish a tuition grant program (vouchers) under existing Section 2012-B of the School Code.
 - a. In addition, HB 1254 would require that any student living in the school district must be eligible for a tuition grant, and that such a student receiving a tuition grant under the proposal will continue to be eligible if the student remains a school district resident, even if the school district reestablishes in-

person instruction. Once a student receives a tuition grant under the bill, the student would remain eligible for future tuition grants, even if the school district later provides full-time, in-person instruction. The school district would have to use funds received from the Commonwealth for educational purposes to establish these tuition grants.

- b. This is a voucher bill that will drain much needed resources from our public-school districts when we are working diligently to recover from the pandemic.
- c. There is no mention of accountability or transparency for the use of the money by parents or the nonpublic school entities.
- d. The majority of taxpayers are opposed to public tax dollars being used for nonpublic school vouchers.
- e. There is no mention of accountability or transparency for the use of the money by parents or the nonpublic school entities.
- f. *Although there does not appear to be an intention to bring up the bill this week, Republican leaders could bring it up for a vote at any time. We expect this issue to be part of the partisan wrangling this spring*
- g. Carrie Lewis DelRosso introduced House Bill 1254 to legislation.
- i. **SB 527: Automatic EITC Increases; amended and approved by the Senate Education Committee, with all Democrats voting in opposition.** The bill amends the School Code to automatically increase the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) caps by 25% each fiscal year when at least 90% of the respective available tax credits are claimed in the previous Fiscal Year. The amendment makes the bill effective in the 2022-23 school year.
- j. **SB 1: ‘Excellence in Education Act.’** This is a voucher/school choice bill. Key components of the legislation would include Education Opportunity Accounts for PA’s students, expansion of the existing EITC/OSTC tax credit scholarship programs, favorable changes for the charter school industry, and protections for coronavirus learning pods.
 - a. Reserved as a priority
 - b. Gives vouchers to students with IEP’s, 504, GEIPS, children of military or adopted/fostered the opportunity to attend non-public schools (i.e., episcopal academies)
 - c. Do you have to attend the public school to get the voucher?
 - 1. Yes, SB 733 Education Opportunity for All
- k. **HB 844: Public Employee Privacy.** The bill would amend Section 705 of the Public Employee Relations Act (Act 195 of 1970), to prohibit social security numbers and home addresses of public sector employees from being proper subjects of collective bargaining.
- l. **HB 845: Collective Bargaining Transparency.** The bill would require any proposed public employee collective bargaining agreement to be made available on the public employers’ publicly accessible Internet website within 48 hours. The proposed agreement must be posted online two weeks prior and thirty days following the signing of the collective bargaining agreement. The posting must include a statement of the terms of the proposed collective bargaining agreement and an estimate of the costs to the public employer associated with the agreement. In addition, the bill would establish that proposed collective bargaining agreements and any documents presented by the public employer or received from the employee organization in the course of collective bargaining are to be public records subject to the Right-to-Know Law.
- m. **HB 2042: Employee Rights Notification.** The bill would require notification of employee rights as follows: 1) Public employees who are not union members would be notified annually that they are not required to pay any money to the union unless they agree to do so, and 2) New employees for public jobs would be notified of their

right to choose whether or not to join the union – and of their 1st Amendment right to not pay any funds to an organization they did not consent to support. In addition, the bill would repeal two state laws that require public employees to pay fair share fees if they do not join the union.

- a. Still pay their shares of PSERS
- n. **HB 2048: Political Contributions.** The bill would prohibit payroll deductions from public sector employees for political action committee (PAC) contributions.

8. Enacted Legislation

- a. **HB412: Substitute Teacher Shortage - Signed by Governor on December 17, 2021; now Act 91 of 2021 (Temporary)**
- b. *For school years 2021-22 and 2022-23:*
 - a. Retired teachers are now eligible to fill teacher vacancies on an emergency or short-term basis.
 - b. Schools can use eligible college students and recent graduates of education programs to serve as substitute teachers.
 - c. Educators with active Pennsylvania certificates and those with comparable out-of-state certificates can serve as day-to-day substitutes for 20 days, or longer under certain circumstances.
 - d. Teachers with inactive certificates may substitute for 180 days instead of 90 days per school year.
 - e. Individuals who are 25 or older, have at least 60 college credits or 3 years of experience as a paraprofessional, and complete training on classroom management, may serve as “classroom monitors” by delivering preplanned assignments for a teacher.
 - 1. We must look at coverage from a different lens. There is no immediate resolution for this ongoing issue.

9. 2022-2023 Budget

- a. Governor Wolf to give his budget address on February 8
 - i. No formal announcements but plenty of speculation
 - ii. Basic Education Fund (BEF)
 - iii. Special Education Fund (SEF)
- b. 2021-22 refresher:
 - a. \$300 million total BEF increase (4.8% increase over 2019-20; 2.4% increase per year over previous two years as 2020-21 was level-funded)
 - b. \$200 million increase for all
 - c. \$100 million designated to 100 most underfunded school districts per “Level Up Program”
 - d. \$50 million special education increase (4.2% increase over 2019-20; 2.1% increase per year over previous two years as 2020-21 was level-funded)

10. Legislative Redistricting

- a. The proposed new map favors Republicans with a 99–104 split, based on the most recent two presidential elections. There are 70 strong Democratic districts and 82 strong Republican districts. The remaining 51 districts are more competitive, with each side winning between 45% and 55% of votes. Of those, 29 districts lean Democrat and 22 districts lean Republican.
 - a. Districts do have to be redrawn. Once in every 10 years.
 - 1. Changing the process of appeals.
 - i. No longer want the supreme court to have voting power

- b. Under the changes, the citizens' commission would have 60 days to draw legislative maps, a decrease from the 90 days afforded to the current redistricting panel. After at least two-thirds of the panel's members approve the maps, they would be sent to their respective chambers for consideration.

If a map does not earn approval in the House or Senate, it is sent back to the commission, which then has another 21 days to amend it and return it for reconsideration. Should the House or Senate fail to adopt its map after the second round of revisions, the chamber would take over the drawing, a significant shift from the current arrangement, which sends the process to the state Supreme Court.

- a. The maps would pass through the legislative process as a simple resolution, which does not require the approval of the governor or the other chamber.

11. Roundtable Discussion

- a. Encourage CCSBLC members to share the legislative survey to find out what each district's legislative priorities are. Survey results are anonymous.
- b. CCSBLC Advocacy Efforts
- c. School Board Public Comment
- d. Impact of HB 412 now Act 91 of 2021
- e. Redistricting impact on school districts

12. Upcoming CCSBLC meetings:

- a. February 16, 2022* **Date Change**
- b. Wednesday, March 23
- c. **Friday**, April 22 (Legislative Breakfast)
- d. Wednesday, May 25
- e. Wednesday, June 22
- f. July - No meeting - Legislature Not in Session
- g. August - No meeting - Legislature Not in Session

13. Chairman Wood shared closing remarks and encouraged other CCSBLC members to share hot topics or situations that are taking place in each district.

14. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m

