

CCSBLC Meeting Summary
Thursday, February 4, 2021
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. Bill Wood, Avon Grove School District
2. Blake Emmanuel, Co-chair, Phoenixville Area School District
3. Rachel Gibson, Downingtown Area School District
4. Joyce Houghton, Downingtown Area School District
5. Stacey Stone, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
6. Mary Garrett Itin, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
7. Lisa Yelovich, Octorara Area School District
8. Dave Kronenberg, Kennett Consolidated School District
9. Erin Talbert, Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
10. Melissa Booth, Co-chair, Owen J. Roberts School District
11. Wendy Litzke, Great Valley School District
12. Robert Tenga, Oxford Area School District

Absent: Kate Shaw, West Chester; Dr. Eric Owens, Oxford Area School District; Melissa Booth, Owen J. Roberts School District

CCIU Staff in Attendance: Mary Jeanne Curley, Tonia Farnum, Dr. Noreen O'Neill and Melissa Smith.

1. Chair Blake Emmanuel started the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Chairwoman Emmanuel welcomed everyone, and members introduced themselves.
2. John Callahan, Chief Advocacy Officer of PSBA, provided an overview of the new legislative session, the Senate Education and House leadership and their priorities, and the Governor's proposed budget. Mr. Callahan will email his presentation to Mary Curley on Friday, February 5.

Key takeaways:

- a. Make-up of the Senate Education Committee is intentionally conservative. Passing vouchers will be a top priority for the Senate Education Committee.
 - b. The Governor's Budget as presented is a non-starter; GOP has said it is "dead on arrival."
 - c. Need to put pressure on our congressional leaders, especially Senator Bob Casey, for a federal testing waiver.
3. Appointment of 2021 CCSBLC Co-Chairs. Co-chairs Blake Emmanuel and Melissa Booth were reappointed. Mrs. Emmanuel announced that she would not be running for re-election in November
 4. Legislative Update
 - a. Governor Wolf's Proposed Budget
 - i. \$1.3 billion proposed increase to BEF (more on this in a minute!)
 - ii. \$200 million proposed increase to SEF (\$187 million) through the formula; \$13 million for the contingency fund...AND remember: DON'T look at the spreadsheets!!)
 - iii. \$30 million proposed increase to early childhood
 - iv. \$11 million proposed increase for Early Intervention
 - v. Legislative Priorities: Cyber Charter School Reform; raise the minimum wage to \$12 with plan to \$15 per hour; minimum teacher salary of \$45,000.
 - vi. Raises PIT from 3.07% to 4.47%; 67% of Pennsylvanians taxes will be lowered or remain the same.
 - vii. GOP says the budget is dead on arrival
 - b. Distributing Federal Funding (COVID 5)
 - i. SB 109: COVID Relief Federal Funding
 - ii. Distributes the following GEERS Funding:

1. \$17.5 million for Area Career and Technical Centers (split proportionally based upon their share of the 2019/20 Secondary Career and Technical Education state subsidy);
 2. \$17.5 million for Intermediate Units (shares are a function of each IU's average daily membership and market value/personal income aid ratio);
 3. \$7.075 million for Approved Private Schools and Chartered Schools for the Deaf and Blind (split proportionally based upon full-time equivalent enrollment);
 4. and \$5 million for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (at the direction of the Chancellor).
- c. Vaccines
- i. Vaccines for School Employees: There is speculation of a planned joint hearing of the PA House and Senate Education and Health committees on the issue of vaccines in schools.
 - ii. HB 182 Vaccines: Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, requiring online publication of the number of vaccinated and unvaccinated students enrolled in each school in the school district. Effective in 60 days.
- d. Testing Waiver: Congress is not receptive to a waiver. Rather, they want to know the baseline about where the learning gaps are. Reach out to Senator Bob Casey, and US Congresswomen.
- e. Vouchers: Senate Education Majority Chair is circulating a sponsorship memo for a voucher bill, SB 1: The Excellence in Education for All Act.
5. Mary Curley provided an overview of the Legislative Call to Action to Prioritize Vaccine for Education
 6. Legislative Briefing: Thursday, March 11, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 7. Next meeting: February 24, 6:30 p.m.