

CCSBLC Meeting Summary
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Members in attendance:

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

Absent: Blake Emmanuel, Phoenixville Area School District; 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, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions

1. Co-Chair Melissa Booth started the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Chairwoman Booth welcomed everyone, and members introduced themselves.
2. Chairwoman Booth began the meeting with a discussion on the Legislative Briefing held on March 11.

Key takeaways:

- a. Allow for breakout rooms to give board members an opportunity to discuss with their legislators the topics presented by the superintendents.
 - b. Superintendents presentations were very informative.
 - c. Keep the topics in front of the legislators, create and share talking points on cyber charter funding reform, transportation funding reform, and need for funding mental health services. Board members in all school districts need to speak with a unified voice when speaking to legislators and the public.
3. Legislative Update presented by Mary Jeanne Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions
 - a. House Education Committee
 - i. **HB 232: Changing a District Name; amended and approved.** The School Code bill permits a school district to change its name. HB 232 was amended to require a 2/3 vote by a school board to approve a name change.
 - ii. **HB 365: School Code Edits; approved.** The bill amends the School Code to update outdated terminology regarding students with disabilities to conform with modern usage. *This bill was introduced last session.*
 - iii. **HB 416: First Aid Training; approved.** The bill amends the School Code to require school nurses to complete a Department of Health approved online course of instruction or in-person training for school nurses regarding management of a student with seizures that includes information about seizure recognition, a seizure action plan and related first aid, beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The bill also requires the Department of Health to make available to school staff training via an approved course in seizure recognition for continuing education credit.
 - iv. **HB 412: Substitute Teacher Flexibility; amended and approved.** The bill amends the School Code to provide school entities with day-to-day substitute teacher by providing that an individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit issued by the Department of Education or by a chief school administrator may serve as a day-to-day substitute in any certificate area for a period not exceeding 20 days of substituting for a professional employee and require a long-term substitute permit issued by the PDE or chief school administrator. The bill also allows an individual holding a day-to-day substitute permit to serve as a day-to-day substitute for more than one professional employee within a school year, even if the individual serves as a substitute for more than 20 cumulative days, and eliminates the sunset date for prospective teachers to substitute teach. As amended in committee, the bill extends the inactive certification to be valid for 180 days.

b. Senate Education Committee

- i. [SB 83 - \(PN 61\)](#) Fire Education Training Pilot: amended and approved. Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program to provide high school students with instruction through a partnership between institutions of higher education and school districts or area career and technical schools, or both, to increase the number of individuals capable of becoming volunteer firefighters. Provides for the responsibilities of the state fire commissioner and requirements on selected institutions of higher education related to the pilot program. Establishes a non-lapsing account within the state treasury as the Fire Training fund and provides \$150,000 for each selected institution offering the pilot program. Provides that the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall conduct a survey of volunteer fire companies in the municipalities surrounding the school districts and area career and technical schools that participate in the pilot program to determine whether the pilot program is increasing the number of volunteer firefighters and any additional recommendations. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously reported as amended.
- ii. [SB 224](#) - Teacher Certification: amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, repealing certificates issued by other states and providing for out of state applicants for certifications. Provides that candidates from other states seeking Pennsylvania certification must hold a valid and current instructional certification issued by another state or hold a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously reported as committed.
- iii. [SB 247: Religious Garb in Schools](#). The bill would repeal Section 1112 of the Public School Code of 1949, which prohibits a teacher from wearing any garb, mark, emblem or insignia that would indicate he or she is a member of or adherent to any religious order or sect while in the performance of their duties as a teacher. A teacher who violates this ban must be suspended from teaching for a term of one year, or permanently disqualified from teaching after multiple offenses. Furthermore, under current statute, a public school director can be held criminally liable for failing to enforce this prohibition.
- iv. [SB 381: Substitute Teacher Program](#). The bill would make permanent the provisions of Act 86 of 2016, created an opportunity for prospective educators to serve as substitute teachers for a limited time by allowing schools, intermediate units and area career and technical schools with the option to utilize individuals training to be teachers to serve as a substitute teacher, provided the individual has valid clearances and at least 60 credit hours. The temporary program is set to expire on June 30.

c. Legislative Alerts

- i. **HB 416 Amendment**
 1. Expanded the definition of a professional employee in the school code to include school psychologists, speech and language therapists, technology specialists, school social workers, and other professionals that require a state or national certification including orientation and mobility specialist, behavior analyst, physical therapist, occupational therapist, and athletic trainers.
 2. Amendment was introduced at a floor amendment in second consideration; the amendment was pulled by its sponsor Rep. Thomas.
 3. Rep. Thomas is still in support of expanding the definition of professional employee.
- ii. **Constitutional Amendment**
 1. On the primary election ballot on May 18, there will be a Constitutional amendment passed rapidly last session and this session that would change a governor's emergency declaration powers by requiring legislative approval for any extensions.
- iii. **Property Tax Elimination**
 1. Property tax elimination is thought to also be a priority for the Senate in the spring.
- iv. SCO 670 Excellence
 1. SB1 Excellence in Education for All Act (SCO 670 - Voucher Co-Sponsorship Memo)
 - i. The Excellence in Education for All Act Co-Sponsorship memo

- ii. Sponsored by Senator Scott Martin, Senate ED Chair
 - iii. Education Opportunity Accounts for PA's most vulnerable students
 - iv. Expansion of the existing EITC/OSTC tax credit scholarship programs
 - v. Charter school reforms and innovations
 - vi. Equal access to the best public education, regardless of ZIP code
 - vii. Protections for coronavirus learning pods
 - viii. Bill is not yet introduced and not yet available to be reviewed
 - b. Governor's Proposed Budget
 - i. Still waiting for Budget Bill details. Two bills have been set up to be the vehicles, HB 935 and HB 936. Both were introduced by Appropriations Chair Stan Saylor. Now, we have to wait for them to filled in with the actual numbers and not placeholders. More to come.
4. Dr. George Fiore, CCIU executive director, provided an update on the CCIU Vaccine Clinic. The clinic will run until Saturday, March 27. Over 11,000 school employees will have been vaccinated when the clinic closes Saturday night. Over 100,000 educators will have been vaccinated statewide through IU COVID-19 vaccination clinics.
5. Next Meeting: April 28 at 6:30 p.m.
6. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.