

CCSBLC Meeting Summary
Wednesday, June 22, 2022
6:33 to 7:28 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. Bill Wood, CCSBLC Chair, Avon Grove School District
2. Caryn Ghrayeb, Downingtown Area School District
3. Brian Fox, Octorara School District
4. Wendy Litzke, Great Valley School District
5. Scott Overland, Phoenixville Area School District
6. Dr. John Melniczek, Owen J. Roberts
7. Jeff Hellrung, Unionville-Chadds Ford School

Absent: Stacy Stone, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District; Dave Kronenberg, Kennett Consolidated School District; Kate Shaw, West Chester Area School District; George F. Fiore, Executive Director, CCIU and William Kloss, Oxford Area School District.

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

1. Chair Bill Wood, called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.
2. Mary Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions, provided a budget and legislative update.

a. 2022-23 Budget Update:

1. Governor's Education Budget Ask:
 - i. \$1.25 Billion – Basic Subsidy
 - ii. \$300 Million – Level Up
 - iii. \$200 Million - Special Education
2. The historical trend indicates that the Governor will get about 25% of his request. Rumors of only \$300 - \$500 million for all subsidies are being discussed to settle the budget.
 - i. This would be a disappointing loss for public education. If we don't get a significant increase this year with the budget surplus, the window may not appear again for many years.
 - a. April 2022 revenues \$2 billion higher than expected
 - b. State revenues are \$5 billion higher than expected for the 21-22 year
 - c. The state still has \$2 billion in American Rescue Funds
 - d. The state deposited \$2.6 billion in the State Rainy Day Fund

3. The House & Senate are recess until Monday, so not likely that a budget will be passed this week.

b. House Education Committee

1. **HB 1813 (MacKenzie)**- This legislation seeks to waive proof of residency requirements for students of military families who are transferring on official military permanent change of station orders. *First Consideration; referred to House Rules.*
2. **HB 2619 (Topper)** The legislation awards funding to a state-related university using performance-based metrics adopted by an Advisory Council established within PHEAA.

c. Senate Education Committee

1. **H.C.R.R.R.1** - Disapproval of Charter Schools and Charter Cyber Schools Regulation #6-349 This resolution disapproves the new Charter School Regulations approved by the State Board of Education. *Approved by the Senate 30-20 on June 15. Vetoed by Governor.*
2. **SB 766 (BARTOLOTTA)** – Adult Education & Workforce Recovery Fund Grant Program
This bill creates grants for educational entities to implement adult education programs. This bill could benefit our CTE’s and districts that provide adult education programs. Reported as amended in Senate Education. *First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.*
3. **SB 1243 (GEBHARD)** – Personal Financial Literacy for High School Students
This bill requires districts to implement a financial literacy course as a graduation requirement. Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations. A student who completes the economics and personal finance course under subsection (a) may apply the successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science or mathematics or business education credit requirement for graduation. Effective July 1, 2023
4. **SB 1277 (AUMENT)** – Parental Control of Student Exposure to Sexually Explicit Content in Schools
This bill requires district to identify and inform parent of sexually explicit material with no clear method or criteria of how to do this. Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.
5. **HB 2169 (OWLETT)** – Tuition Voucher Bill
Sen. Brooks is offering multiple amendments, including changing the audit requirements, requiring payments made directly to programs, not parents, and requiring computers to be purchased from the resident school district.

6. **SB 1278 (MARTIN) – [Empowering Families in Education](#)** This bill does the following:
- i. Prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation for pre-kindergarten through fifth-grade students, consistent with the timeline for when the existing academic standards on general sex education begin in sixth grade.
 - ii. Requires adherence to existing [state standards](#) of age-appropriate content for any discussions of gender identity and sexual orientation that occur in grades 6-12.
 - iii. Prohibits a school from withholding information from parents by existing state and federal laws.
 - iv. Increases transparency by requiring public schools to develop a policy for notifying parents when there is a change to a student's services or monitoring.
 - v. Protects students in the LGBTQ community by providing critical exemptions if it can be reasonably demonstrated that parental notification would result in abuse or abandonment of a minor.

7. **Right (RTK) to Know Law Bills**

- i. **HB 2524 (Schmitt) – Right to Know Law Update**
 - a. *Definition: A person, who by the person's conduct, demonstrates an attempt to annoy or harass a local agency.*
 - b. The wording of the vexatious requester definition is ambiguous and may be difficult for school districts and public entities to verify the "intent to annoy or harass." This needs to be clarified with some parameters or criteria.
 - c. It has now passed the house and will head to Senate during its next session.
 - d. An individual can't be considered a vexatious requester by the number of requests filed. A substantial number of requests should be considered a reason to identify a requester intending to "annoy or harass an entity." This definition would allow an individual to make several requests each day and not be considered a vexatious requester.
 - e. The Office of Open Records would have the authority to assess attorney fees on a school district without due process in a court of law.
 - f. Does not address emails. An email in itself should not be a public record; a public record can be in an email. Need to define and clarify what a public record is in an email. Not all emails are a public record, especially if they are not part of the public entity's actions or deliberation process. Yet, the Office of Open Records (ORR) has ruled that an

individual can request all emails of specific public employees for up to a week at a time.

- g. Requests can be issued for emails week after week by the same individual causing an incredible amount of work for school staff. Legislation needs to identify which emails should be considered a public record and which should not. Until this matter is resolved, vexatious requests will continue.

- ii. **SB 552 (Dush)**. Identifies the criteria that will be evaluated by the Office of Open Records to determine if a requester should be considered vexatious, establishes a process for ORR to review the petition including possible mediation, and identifies an appeal process to Commonwealth Court for either party. It is much better bill.

8. Roundtable Discussion

- i. Role of CCSBLC in Chester County

- a. Regional Resolutions to amplify our voice to our legislators.

- i. Do people see value in exploring ways to enhance our voice?

- I. Expanding on our legislative breakfast – only one a year.

- II. Invite legislators to another similar setup to discuss other pressing topics.

- ii. How to get our local legislators into our schools – invite and host representatives for a tour.

- I. Each board commit to sending an invitation to our representatives to attend a districts board meeting

- iii. Reserve time at the end of each meeting to agree on action items to report back to each of our district's boards.

- I. Brainstorm talking points to come up with unified language.

- a. Use this language to contact local legislators

- iv. Look at voting records on where local representatives stand on pressing topics or bills.

- I. Work with them to draft legislation

- II. Provide recommendations or additional language to ensure you are reaching all students in Chester County

- ii. Maine's Supreme Court Ruling

- a. Sued for tuition assistant programs being available for only public schools.
- b. The supreme court ruled in favor and now the voucher is open to religious or private schools.

3. Calendar Session Days

- a. **Senate:**
 1. June 27, 28, 29, 30
- b. **House:**
 1. June 27, 28, 29, 30

4. Upcoming CCSBLC meetings:

- a. July: No meeting - Legislature Not in Session
- b. August: No meeting - Legislature Not in Session
- c. 7:00 p.m., September 28, 2022, at the CCIU Educational Service Center in Downingtown

5. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:28 p.m.