

CCSBLC Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, May 25, 2022  
6:33 to 7:28 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. John Melniczek, Owen J. Roberts School District
2. Brian Fox, Octorara School District
3. Bill Kloss, Oxford Area School District
4. Jeff Hellrung, Unionville-Chadds Ford School
5. George Fiore, Executive Director, CCIU

Absent: Linda MacNeal, Downingtown Area School District; John Melniczek, Owen J. Roberts; Wendy Litzke, Great Valley School District; CCIU; Stacy Stone, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District; Dave Kronenberg, Kennett Consolidated School District; Scott Overland, Phoenixville Area School District; Bill Wood, Avon Grove School District; and, Kate Shaw, West Chester Area School District.

CCIU Staff in Attendance: Mary Jeanne Curley, Director of Communication and Learning Solutions, and Haley Taylor, Communication Specialist

1. Mary Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions, called the meeting at 6:33 p.m. by welcoming everyone and reviewing the meeting's agenda.
2. **2022-23 Budget Update:**
  - a. Governor's Education Budget Ask:
    - i. \$1.25 Billion – Basic Subsidy
      - i. Governor Wolf is getting 75% of his request
    - ii. \$300 Million – Level Up
    - iii. \$200 Million - Special Education
  - b. The historical trend indicates that the Governor will get about 25% of his request. However, state budget revenues are at an all-time high:
    - i. April 2022 revenues \$2 billion higher than expected
    - ii. State revenues are \$5 billion higher than expected for the 21-22 year
    - iii. The state still has \$2 billion in American Rescue Funds
    - iv. The state deposited \$2.6 billion in the State Rainy Day Fund
      - a. Although these are unexpected revenue highs, they do not see this continuing in the future and are wary of a recession.
      - b. How will these numbers and the final budget affect PSERS?
3. **House Education Committee**
  - a. **SB 224: Teacher Certification Reciprocity:** The bill would simplify the process for out-of-state teachers to obtain certification in Pennsylvania by allowing an out-of-state candidate who has completed any state-approved educator preparation

program (which includes field placement/student teaching) from an accredited institution of higher education to be eligible for a comparable in-state instructional certification. The bill also would require PDE to recognize and accept out-of-state candidates' qualifying scores on equivalent content tests toward PDE's testing and certification requirements.

i. Further, the legislation would grant Pennsylvania certification to any candidate who holds a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. SB 224 passed the Senate 48-0 in October 2021. *First consideration; set on Tabled Calendar for June 7, 2022.*

i. Pennsylvania has one of the most difficult stipulations regarding credentials to teach within the state.

a. This would allow teachers to send in transcripts and other credentials to PDE to allow teaching within this state.

b. **SB 932: Educational Tax Credits:** The bill would revise the current definition of household income to explicitly state that payments received from any governmental agency because of the pandemic cannot be included in calculating one's household income when determining eligibility. In addition, the bill would revise the current definition of "school-related fees" under the context of the EITC and OSTC programs to allow for the use of program dollars for dual enrollment courses. The bill passed the Senate in December 2021 by a vote of 33-16. *First consideration; set on Tabled Calendar for June 7, 2022.*

i. Automatic increase when 90% of credits are used in the previous year.

i. Non-publics that receive this money are not required to follow the same policies as public schools.

a. This can result in less money in the general fund for public schools.

#### 4. Senate Education Committee

a. **HB 972: Transgender Students and Sports:** The bill, named the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act," would prohibit students who are "biologically male" from participating in scholastic or interscholastic athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls, provides for legal recourse for students who have been "deprived of an opportunity" due to a violation of the prohibition, and provides legal protections for school entities complying with the act. The House passed HB 972 in April, 115-84, with most Republicans voting yes and most Democrats opposed. *First consideration; set on the Senate Calendar for June 6, 2022.*

b. **HB 1041: Homeschool Students:** The bill requires a school district to develop policies and procedures to permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to participate, on the same basis as other students enrolled in the school district, in any co-curricular activity that merges extra-curricular activities with a required academic class, including, but not limited to, band or orchestra, must permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to take up to four academic courses at a time, and must allow a homeschooled student to participate in a career and technical education program on the same basis as other students

enrolled in the school district, provided they meet requirements. HB 1041 passed the House in November, 136-41. *First consideration; set on the Senate Calendar for June 6, 2022.*

- i. Automatically allow students 4 academic classes at a time in their home school district and attend the CTE Program within its district.
  - i. As a result, students would have to follow all the requirements and policies of the district.
  
- c. **SB 1244: Keystone Exams:** Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing in any school year in which a demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for high school graduation, a student shall be deemed proficient if they demonstrate attainment of a satisfactory composite score of at least 2939, using the highest scores attained by the student on two of the three Keystone Exams in algebra I, literature and biology and achieve a minimum score of proficient on at least one of the two Keystone Exams and a minimum score of basic on the other Keystone Exam used to calculate the composite score. Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously reported as committed. *First and second consideration. Referred to Senate Appropriations.*
  - i. *The COVID extension has been extended until the 2025 school year.*
    - i. *If passed, it would be delayed due to COVID.*
  
- d. **HB 2169: Voucher Bill:** The bill, which narrowly passed the House last month with a 104-98 vote, establishes the “Lifeline Scholarship” to give parents of any student in grades 1-12 residing within the attendance areas of the lowest-achieving public schools with vouchers to pay for tuition in an “alternative academic setting.” Removed from agenda.
  - i. Will exempt students from Keystone Exams regardless of the student's academic level. Impacts the lifeline scholarship.
  - ii. However, there are 5 other pathways to successfully be eligible for graduation
    - i. This bill may affect the verbiage of specific school codes.

## 5. State Board of Education - Final-Form Regulations: Academic Standards

- a. On May 19, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) unanimously approved final-form regulations that amend Chapter 4 to update existing science standards, clarify expectations for high school graduation, and align the regulation with statutory changes.

Specifically, the rulemaking replaces the Commonwealth’s current Academic Standards for Science and Technology (2002) and Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology (2002) with the Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering (Grades K— 5), Pennsylvania Integrated Standards/b; Science, Environment and Ecology (Grades 6—12), and Pennsylvania Technology and Engineering Academic Standards (Grades 6-12). **The new academic standards will take effect on July 1, 2025.**

## 6. Pennsylvania Primary Upsets

- a. Senator Patrick Browne, R-Lehigh, Senate Appropriations Chair, was lagging behind the challenger Jarrett Coleman.
  - i. The last update was by 30 votes. They have until June 7<sup>th</sup> to declare the winner.
- b. Rep. Stan Saylor, R-York, House Appropriations Chair, lost to challenger Wendy Fink by more than 1,000 votes – 5,408 to 4,300.
  - i. It is unusual for an incumbent to endorse nonincumbents during a primary election.
  - ii. Outside of the Governor’s office, the Senate Appropriations and House Appropriations positions are two of the most powerful positions in the General Assembly.
- c. The primaries also included three races which, thanks to redistricting, pitted incumbents against each other.
  - i. In the 86th District Rep. Perry Stambaugh, R-Perry, defeated Rep. Jonathan Hershey, R-Juniata.
  - ii. In the 187th District Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R-Lehigh, defeated Rep. Gary Day, R-Lehigh.
  - iii. In the 200th District Rep. Chris Rabb, D-Philadelphia, defeated Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald, D-Philadelphia.

## 7. Roundtable Discussion

- a. PSBA Letter
- b. Mental Health Resolution
  - i. Only three provided updates to the mental health resolution. We are still waiting for the remaining updates regarding the resolution.
- c. CCSBLC Letter to PSBA
  - i. The PSBA letter is still on the table for some districts, others have withdrawn given PSBA’s joining
- d. June Meeting – June 22
  - i. The meeting is scheduled to be in-person. Ms. Curley will send around poll to members to determine if they wish to remain in-person or switch to virtual.

## 8. Calendar Session Days

- a. **Senate:**
  - i. June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
  - ii. September 19, 20, 21
  - iii. October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
  - iv. November 15
- b. **House:**
  - i. June 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
  - ii. September 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
  - iii. October 24, 25, 26
  - iv. November 14, 15, 16

9. Upcoming CCSBLC meetings:
  - a. Wednesday, June 22
  - b. July: No meeting - Legislature Not in Session
  - c. August: No meeting - Legislature Not in Session

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