

CCSBLC Meeting Summary

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

7:00 to 7:54 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. Bill Wood, CCSBLC Chair, Avon Grove School District
2. Susan Audrain, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
3. Caryn Ghrayeb, Downingtown Area School District
4. Jennifer Kehs, Oxford Area School Districts
5. Ethan Cramer, Kennett Consolidated School District
6. John Melniczek, Owen J. Roberts School District

CCIU Staff in Attendance; Melissa Smith, assistant director of Communications and Learning Solutions
Tonia Farnum, communications manager and Haley Taylor, communications specialist.

1. Bill Wood, interim CCSBLC Chair, School Director, called the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone.
2. Melissa Smith, Legislative Update
 - a. **Governor's Proposed Budget - Presented March 7, 2023**
 - a. Basic Education Funding (BEF) - \$567M increase (7.8%)
 - b. Special Education Funding (SEF) - \$104M increase (7.8%)
 - c. No "Level Up" Funding
 - d. \$100M state appropriation for school environmental repairs and improvements
 - b. **HB611 – Filed May 2; Passed House June 5 (102-101); Amended by Senate Appropriations Committee June 22; First Consideration in the Senate June 22; Second Consideration June 27; Re-committed to Appropriations**
 - a. Bill from the House - almost \$1.4 billion above Governor Shapiro's proposal
 - An additional \$100 million in basic education funding
 - Adding a \$225 million Level Up supplement to the 108 most underfunded school districts in the state
 - An additional \$50 million for Special Education
 - An additional \$250 million for school facilities maintenance and improvements
 - b. Senate Appropriations stripped the House bill and put in current 2022-23 budget numbers as a new placeholder starting point for negotiations
 - c. Education Bills this Session
 - a. House
 - a. 53 bills
 - b. 4 house bills currently sit with Senate Education Committee
 - c. 20 bills voted out
 - b. Senate
 - a. 145 bills
 - b. 3 Senate bills currently sit with House Education Committee
 - c. 22 bills voted out
3. **Cyber Charter Reform**
 - a. **HB 1422 – Modernizing our cyber charter school law to protect kids and taxpayers (Committed by House Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27; Sitting with House Rules Committee):**
 - a. Single statewide tuition rate (\$8,000) for non-special education students at cyber schools

- b. Applies existing three-tier special education funding formula currently used for school districts to cyber charter schools
 - c. Establishes further parameters in the areas of fund balance, advertising and sponsorships, enrollment, wellness checks, programs and services, access to school facilities for testing, transportation, governance, amendments, and management companies and foundations.
 - b. Two alternate bills, **HB 1494** and **HB 1495**, have also been introduced by Rep. Friel.
 - a. **HB 1494** – Specific to funding and payment to cyber charter schools: \$8,000 for non-special ed with no mention of adjustment; Special ed standard rate based on district special ed expenditure and average daily membership.
 - b. **HB 1495** – Further clarification surrounding special ed rate being a combination of all tiers.
- 4. Lifeline Scholarship Program
 - a. **SB 795 – Lifeline Scholarship Program** (*Referred to Senate Education Committee, June 15*):
 - a. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the Lifeline Scholarship Program would be established as a program in the State Treasury to provide scholarships to help eligible students pay tuition, school-related fees and special education services fees for attendance at a participating nonpublic school.
 - a. May be a bargaining chip at budgeting table. The newly formed group, One Way Out, launched a series of TV and digital ads this month that urge viewers to contact lawmakers and register their support for lifeline scholarships, arguing that many Pennsylvania students are “trapped” in underperforming schools. It plans to keep running ads through the June 30 budget deadline.
 - b. First introduced in the last legislative session, the bill would require districts with schools categorized as “low-achieving” to annually notify families that their kids qualify for lifeline scholarships.
 - c. These scholarships would be financed with state money and awarded on a first-come-first-served basis to eligible students who apply.
 - d. If a family opted to use one, the Pennsylvania Treasury would put money into an account for the student to use on nonpublic school tuition, associated fees, or special education fees.
 - e. The bill does not specify how much money would be available annually, but it does state that a student could get between \$2,500 and \$15,000 per year, depending on grade and whether the student needs special education services.
 - b. Mirrored in **HB 1432** (*Referred to House Education Committee, June 20*)
- 5. Helping Teacher Shortage
 - a. **HB 141 – Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program** (*Passed the House 120-81, May 1; Sitting in Senate Education*)
 - a. Grants to build or expand pathways to education, including high school student-to-aspiring educator, aspiring-to-enacting educator, education support professional-to-educator, community member-to-education support professional
 - b. **HB 688 – PA Teacher Pipeline Scholarship Program** (*Passed the House 119-81, May 2; Sitting in Senate Education*)
 - a. Scholarship grant up to \$8,000 per academic year
 - b. Requires employment as a teacher in a public school entity (CTE included) for one year for each academic year scholarship grant was received.

- c. Funds have to be appropriated to the program; Overseen by PA Higher Education Assistance Agency
- c. **HB 1331 – Student Teacher Stipend Program** (*Passed the House 141-62, June 22*):
 - a. This bill would provide student teaching stipends to help remove financial barriers for aspiring teachers wishing to enter this profession and ensure that aspiring teachers’ focus and energy are on the student teaching classroom and their own course requirements. Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency would provide stipends. This program would follow the framework of the School-based Mental Health Internship Program enacted in the 2022-2023 budget.
 - b. \$10,000 for students enrolled in an initial teacher certification program.
 - c. Additional \$5,000 for student teachers who complete their work in a school entity that attracts few student teachers or has a high rate of open teaching positions.
 - d. \$1,000 stipend would be available for Cooperating Teachers.
- d. **HB 1249 – Pennsylvania Individual Recruitment and Retention Tax Credit** (*Passed the House 137-66 , June 20*):
 - a. Pennsylvania residents that earn one of the specified licenses/certifications in the bill to become a certified professional in education, nursing, or public policing after December 31, 2022, and prior to January 1, 2026, would be eligible to claim a refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 against their personal income tax liability beginning in tax year 2023. Out-of-state individuals who already have one of the certifications in the legislation prior to January 1, 2023, and become an employed resident in Pennsylvania in the field that they are certified in would also be eligible for the tax credit.
 - b. Refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 against their personal income tax liability beginning in tax year 2023.
 - c. Individuals would be able to claim the credit in the first year in which they qualify for the credit and the next two succeeding tax years so long as they remain employed in the field in which they are certified.
- e. **HB 1067 – Educator Certification and Employment for Immigrants** (*Passed the House 110-93, June 26*): The bill allows for a waiver of the US citizenship requirement for certification and employment of immigrants in PA if:
 - a. The bill allows for a waiver of the US citizenship requirement for certification and employment of immigrants in PA if (1) in the case of exchange teachers not permanently employed, and teachers employed for the purpose of teaching foreign languages, including special teachers who speak the idiomatic or colloquial language of immigrants residing in the school district, and employed for the purpose of easing the transition period of such immigrants[.]; or (2) if the individual holds a valid immigrant visa, work visa or a valid employment authorization document which allows the individual to work in the United States.
- f. **HB 27 – Act 91 Extensions** (*Recommitted to the House Rules Committee, June 21*): This bill would extend special provisions for applicable limited school years and time for substitute teachers.
 - a. Act 91 of 2021 provided school districts with flexible options to address the ongoing substitute teacher shortage. However, some of these options are set to expire at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. In order to continue providing these options to school districts, this bill would extend the following provisions of the Public School Code until the end of the 2024-2025 school year:

- i. Section 129. Special Provisions Applicable to Limited School Years. - If, in the judgement of a school employer, an emergency or shortage of day-to-day substitute teachers exists, the school employer may hire an annuitant, regardless of whether the school employer first attempts to secure nonretired personnel.
- ii. Section 1201.1 Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers. - The number of days or hours per school year for which an individual receiving a permit under this section may serve as a substitute teacher would not be limited, except for an individual who is undertaking a student teaching program.
- iii. Section 1215. Locally Issued Temporary Certification for Substitute Teachers. - A temporary substitute teacher certificate issued under this section may be used for assignments of more than 20 consecutive days to fill a position due to the absence of a professional certified personnel.
 - a. Classroom monitor permits

g. **SB 843 – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact** (*Committed by Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27*): Supporting military spouse reemployment in licensed professions.

- a. The Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) was created as part of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act with the goal of supporting military spouse reemployment in licensed professions. The final version of the model legislation was released in November 2022 and requires at least 10 participating states for the Compact to go into effect. As of today, 6 states have enacted ITMC legislation: Kentucky, Colorado, Utah, Kansas, Oklahoma and Florida, and legislation is pending in 13 other states including our neighbors in Ohio and New Jersey.
- b. The ITMC works by having member states submit teacher certifications that are eligible for the compact and teachers who hold a compact-eligible certification can apply for the closest equivalent certification in the receiving state without having to complete additional materials, exams or coursework. No existing pathways to teacher certification would be impacted in PA and state sovereignty would be maintained for regulating teacher certifications, including requiring security clearances and background checks.

6. Bills that have passed the Senate

a. **SB 84 – Protecting the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression** (*Passed Senate 49-0; Committed by House Education and First Consideration, June 13*)

- a. Currently, Section 1112 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, a public school director can be held criminally liable for failing to enforce this prohibition. In the case *Nichol v. Arin Intermediate Unit 28* in the United States District Court, W.D. Pennsylvania held that Arin Intermediate Unit 28's religious affiliations policy violates the Free Exercise of Religion and Free Speech Clauses of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The

teacher was suspended pursuant to the Garb Statute and Arin's religious Affiliations policy from her job as an instructional assistant for refusing to comply with her supervisor's request that she remove or conceal a small cross she regularly wore on a necklace. As a result of the ruling, the plaintiff was rehired with back pay. Based on this decision, Section 1112 is no longer warranted.

- b. **SB 114 – Firefighter Training Pilot Program for High School Students** (*Passed Senate 49-0, Jan 18; Sitting in House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness*)
 - a. Reintroduced Senate Bill 83 of last session, which creates a pilot program for community colleges and universities in the PA State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) to give interested high school students training in firefighting. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously in April 2021, but was not considered by the full House before the close of session. By encouraging school districts to partner with institutions of higher education, we can help recruit and retain firefighters at a time when first responders are desperately needed. This legislation would award three grants of \$150,000 each, which would be distributed to three community colleges or PASSHE schools in the Commonwealth, one in the eastern, central, and western parts of the state. The grants will be used to establish fire training programs for students in high school during the school year, with the hope they will remain firefighters for years to come.
 - c. **SB 209 – Providing Children of National Guard/Reserve Members the Same Benefits Under the Military Interstate Children's Compact** (*Passed Senate 49-0, June 27*)
 - a. Afford children of National Guard and Reserve members the same rights exclusively provided to those of active-duty military families under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act. Military families face frequent reassignments, posing educational challenges for children transitioning between schools in different states. The Military Interstate Children's Compact ("Compact"), which Pennsylvania joined in 2012, assists transferring students by facilitating enrollment, attendance requirements, timely graduation, and other academic issues.
 - d. **SB 232 – Tick Removal in School** (*Passed Senate 49-1, April 26; Sitting in House Education*)
 - a. Establish a standard protocol when a tick is found on a child during the school day. The bill would require school officials to notify parents about the tick removal and the symptoms of Lyme disease.
 - e. **SB 290 – September 11 Moment of Silence and Courses of Study** (*Passed Senate 49-1, June 19; Sitting in House Education*)
 - a. Required moment of silence; optional curriculum for instruction.
 - f. **SB 460 – Child Reunification Act** (*Passed Senate 34-15, June 27*)
 - a. Provide child identification kits to parents of students in kindergarten (source of funds not defined, but responsibility placed upon PDE).
 - g. **SB 647 – Personal Financial Literacy Course** (*Passed Senate 44-5, May 9; Sitting in House Education*)
 - a. Require completion of a half-credit economics and personal finance course as a graduation requirement in Pennsylvania.
7. Bills that have passed the House
- a. **HB 100 – Tutoring Program** (*Passed the House 141-60; Committed by Senate Education, June 6; Sitting in Senate Rules and Executive Nominations*)

- a. Legislation would require the State Board of Education to establish a “Tutoring Program” whereby students in eleventh and twelfth grades may tutor pupils in grades one through six. The participating tutors would receive academic credit for their services. The plan includes a provision to encourage eleventh and twelfth grade students who are not achieving as well as they could academically to participate if it is determined that serving as tutors would improve their own academic performance.
- b. **HB 301 – Removing Derogatory Terms from the School Code** (*Passed the House 201-0; Second consideration, June 7; Sitting in Appropriations*)
 - a. the Pennsylvania Department of Education has been trying to update and correct some of the more obvious derogatory words and terms in the code. However, bill seeks to address and correct using the legislative process.
- c. **HB 668 – Tuition Waivers for Kinship Care Families** (*Passed the House 203-0, June 27*)
 - a. Expand the eligibility requirements for the Fostering Independence Tuition Waiver Program to include children who go into kinship care but would have otherwise been in the foster care system if their family did not step in. This legislation will ensure that these children who may still struggle financially are provided the same chance at an education.
- d. **HB 1094 – Military Family Residency/Advance Enrollment** (*Passed the House 201-0; Committed by Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27*)
 - a. Allow military children to access registration and enrollment to a school district at the same time it is open to the general population. Specifically, it would allow a child whose parent or guardian is an active-duty member of the military and has received official military orders to transfer into or within the Commonwealth. They would be able to establish residency for purposes of enrollment in the school district in which they will be residing by providing the school district with a copy of their military order. The proof of residency requirement would be waived until the student begins school.
- e. **HB 1097 – September 11 Moment of Silence and Courses of Study** (*Passed the House 203-0, June 5; Sitting in Senate Education*)
 - a. Require the observance of a moment of silence in all schools across Pennsylvania to recognize September 11th each year. Additionally, Department of Education would be directed to develop a model curriculum that teaches the significance of 9/11.
- f. **HB 1408 – Adequate and Safe School Facilities Program** (*Passed the House 142-61, June 26*)
 - a. This legislation would build on the existing PlanCon 2.0. PlanCon is the state’s school construction reimbursement program, and the new and improved version has a streamlined application process, an updated reimbursement formula, and an incentive for high-performance building standards. This bill opens PlanCon 2.0 for the first time so that the state can help school districts with new construction and major renovation projects. The bill would provide coverage for school maintenance including things like roof repairs, HVAC systems, and asbestos remediation – that regular PlanCon does not cover. School districts, career and technical schools, and intermediate units can apply to the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a maintenance grant for 75% of a project’s cost, capped at a maximum grant of \$5 million. No limit on the number of applications for different projects a school entity may

submit in a fiscal year. No S.E. may receive an annual allocation of grants that exceed 25% of the funds available. Grant money may only be awarded for new projects – 1st year – a start of July 1, 2023 and after.

8. Senate Bills of Interest

a. **SB 375 – AEDs at Athletic Events** (*Reported as Amended from Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 19*):

a. This bill would require a school entity or nonpublic school, to have an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) present at all interscholastic athletic events, including practices.

i. This legislation will also require each school entity or nonpublic school to establish and implement a sudden cardiac event emergency action plan during an athletic activity.

b. **SB 750 – Universal FAFSA Completion** (*Passed out of Senate Education Committee; Second Consideration with Amendments, June 26*):

a. Require high school seniors to complete the FAFSA or opt out on a form provided to parents or guardians.

i. Amendments made strengthen the opt-out language, including allowing schools to waive the requirement as a last resort so students are not prevented from getting their diploma if the FAFSA is not completed. Additional privacy protections and the inclusion of students graduating from private and nonpublic schools were also included in the amendment.

9. House Bills of Interest

a. **HB 662 – School Counseling Services Act** (*Referred to House Education Committee, March 21*)

a. Requires schools develop a comprehensive school counseling plan. The plan would ensure that academic, career planning, and social and emotional learning concerns are addressed, would include a multilevel school data review to determine student needs, and would align with guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

i. In addition to requiring a comprehensive school counseling plan, the bill would spell out the way in which counselors spend their time, requiring that they spend at least 80% of their working time engaged in direct and indirect services to students on days that students were in school. These services could involve academic advising, career planning, social and emotional skill building, intervening with students at risk of dropping out, orienting new and transferring students, and contributing to decision-making teams and programs that directly impact students and families. Administrative responsibilities could take up no more than 20% of their time.

b. **HB 1434 – Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grants** (*Committed by House Education Committee and First Consideration, 6/27; Sitting with House Rules Committee*): Higher Ed offering dual credit enrollment shall be eligible to apply for a grant. May be awarded for the following:

a. To Operate Dual credit courses free to students

b. To support building a dual credit program

c. To increase use of low-cost, no-cost textbooks and resources

- d. For professional development activities for high school teachers to enable them to teach dual credit courses
 - i. PASA has requested K-12 schools be added to the list of possible grant recipients.
- c. **HB 1448 – Conflict Resolution in Schools** (*Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, June 20*):
 - a. Requires public schools to provide instruction on conflict resolution to all students.
 - i. This instruction would include topics such as skills of conflict resolution; respect for different cultures, races, and beliefs; effectively managing emotions; and how to resolve differences peacefully. This instruction shall be age appropriate and be incorporated into an appropriate area of study. The Department of Education will compose a list of evidence-based model programs schools can use to provide this instruction to students.
- a. **HB 1478 – Dental Screenings by Dental Hygienists** (*Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, June 21*):
 - a. Allows school districts to utilize a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner (PHDHP) to fulfill the requirements of Section 1403 of the Public School Code relating to dental screenings and dental hygiene.
 - i. The purpose of this legislation is to provide local school districts more flexibility regarding fulfilling the requirements of Section 1403. Currently, to satisfy this section, a school district may only utilize a school dentist. Increasingly, school districts are encountering difficulties in hiring dentists to fulfill this requirement.
- b. **HB 1507 – Providing Our Students Flexible Instructional Time in School** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 26*)
 - a. Change instructional time requirement from 180 days **AND** 900/990 hours of instruction per year to 180 days **OR** 900/990 hours of instruction per year.
 - i. Current law requires all public kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools to be kept open for at least 180 days **AND** 900/990 hours each school year. Legislation will change that requirement to 180 days **OR** 900/990 hours of instruction per year. Pennsylvania is one of only 18 states that require both a day and hour requirement.
- c. **HB 1526 – Allowing IUs to Own Facilities for Instructional Use** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 27*)
 - a. While intermediate units are authorized to own facilities themselves, this is limited only to office space and warehouse facilities, a limitation that does not exist for area career and technical schools or charter schools. Many IUs operate classrooms and other instructional spaces as providers of important special education, pre-school programs, and other educational services. All these instructional facilities must be leased, burdening IUs with rental costs that sometimes greatly exceed what it would cost the IU to purchase and own the facility themselves. In addition to inflating costs for IUs, these limitations also create inadequate learning conditions and prevent IUs from providing facilities that are tailored for the needs of the students they serve. Legislation would

remove this limitation on intermediate units owning facilities, allowing them to own instructional space and use facilities they already have for instructional purposes.

d. **HB 1530 – Increasing access to school counselors, psychologists, social workers and nurses** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 27*):

a. *Designates case loads as follows for each school:*

a. *School Counselor not to exceed 250*

b. *School Psychologist not to exceed 500*

c. *School Social Worker not to exceed 250*

d. *School Nurse not to exceed 750 reg. ed., 225 mixed reg & spec. ed. or 125 severe or profound disabilities*

- i. Requires school districts to evaluate their needs based on school population and requires a necessary complement of school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses to ensure that access to help is never a problem and that case load management is never an issue.

This bill also requires proper privacy procedures and parental involvement in this area.

10. New Secretary of Education

a. Confirmed by Senate on Monday, June 26 (46-3 vote)

b. Dr. Khalid N. Mumin [Ka-lead Moo-min]

a. Most recently: Superintendent of Lower Merion School District

b. Previously: Superintendent of Reading School District

c. 2021 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year (finalist for National Superintendent of the Year)

d. Began in 1997 as a Secondary English teacher

c. **Biography:** For over 25 years, Dr. Khalid N. Mumin [Ka-lead Moo-min] has served in various capacities as a teacher, dean of students, principal and central administrator. Most recently, Dr. Mumin served as the Superintendent of Schools at Lower Merion School District. Prior to Lower Merion, Dr. Mumin was the Superintendent of Reading School District for seven years. Beginning as a Secondary English teacher in Scotland, Pennsylvania in 1997, Dr. Mumin rose through the leadership ranks of the education system in Pennsylvania. Dr. Mumin is committed to promoting and sustaining student achievement, equity and access to educational programming for all students, as well as creating plans that are fiscally responsible. He has been recognized nationally as a “School Board Savvy Superintendent,” and is the author of the book entitled *Problem Child: Leading Students Living in Poverty Towards Infinite Possibilities of Success*.

Dr. Mumin earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education in Teaching & Curriculum from Pennsylvania State University, a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education from Shippensburg University, and an Associate of Arts in English from Northeastern Christian Junior College.

11. CCSBLC Round-table Discussion

a. Open Discussion

a. Concerns regarding passing the recent expulsion bills in legislation.

a. Catholic school student with weapon on premise was expelled from the Archdiocese, but enrolled in the local public school prior to disciplinary records being transferred over.

12. PA House and Senate Session Days

- a. Senate:
 - a. June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
- b. House:
 - a. June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

13. Upcoming CCSBLC meetings:

- a. September 2023

14. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.