

CCSBLC Meeting Summary

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

6:30 to 7:35 p.m.

Members in attendance:

1. Bill Wood, CCSBLC Chair, Avon Grove School District
2. Susan Audrain, Tredyffrin-Easttown School District
3. Victoria Walker, Phoenixville Area School District
4. Caryn Ghrayeb, Downingtown Area School District
5. Brian Fox, Octorara School District
6. Jennifer Kehs – Oxford Area School Districts

CCIU Staff in Attendance; Mary Jeanne Curley, Director of Communications and Learning Solutions; Melissa Smith, Assistant Director of Communications and Learning Solutions, Communications and Learning Solutions, and Haley Taylor and Theresa Marsden, Communications Specialists.

1. Bill Wood, interim CCSBLC Chair, School Director, called the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed everyone.
2. Mary Curley, Legislative Update
 - a. Education Committees
 - i. 48 House bills in addition to five House bills currently sit with the Senate Education Committee.
 1. 10 bills have already been vetoed
 - ii. 111 bills in addition to 3 Senate bills currently sit with the House Education Committee
 1. 8 bills voted out
 - b. Senate Education Committee, May 2
 - i. **SB 97 Langerholz, Wayne - (PN 36)** Amends the Public School Code adding a new chapter providing for the Community Engaged Schools for Success Pilot Program Act. Provides any school operated by a school district is eligible for designation by the secretary of education as a community engaged school if it meets at least one of the criteria provided in the legislation. Further provides for community engaged school designation, community engaged plan, duties of program manager, duties of the Department of Education, and community engaged school grants. Also provides grant funds shall be used exclusively for the purpose of supporting a community engaged school's community engagement plan and are subject to audit by the department and the auditor general. Effective immediately. *The bill was unanimously reported as amended. Second Consideration, referred to Senate Appropriations.*
 - ii. **SB 290 Mastriano, Doug - (PN 264)** Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for a moment of silence on September 11 anniversary; further directing the Department of Education to establish a model curriculum for instruction in the events and significance of September 11, 2001, within 12 months of the effective date and made available on a publicly accessible website. Effective immediately. *The bill was unanimously reported as committed.*
 1. Senator Doug Mastriano (R-Franklin), prime sponsor of the bill, noted that none of Pennsylvania's K-12 students were alive during September 11, 2001. "September 11th is a dark chapter in our history. It's disheartening to me that often times it's forgotten or not even recognized

on its anniversary each year. Senate Bill 290 would require schools to observe a moment of silence to honor the lives lost and families left behind. The bill will ensure future generations of students will learn about the events and significance of 9/11," he stated.

- iii. **SB 353 Dush, Cris (F) - (PN 283)** The Display of the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania Act requires the governing board of each school entity to display the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania at the entranceway of each school building. Provides the display shall take the form of, but is not limited to, a mounted plaque. Further provides the display may include artwork as the result of a school contest, which may be prominently displayed in each school building. *Effective in 90 days. The bill was reported as committed along a party-line vote with all Democratic members voting in the negative. Second Consideration, referred to Senate Appropriations.*
 - 1. Senator Cris Dush (R-Jefferson), prime sponsor of the bill, explained that the bill would require the posting of the preamble to the Pennsylvania Constitution in each school building and can be part of a school art contest.
 - iv. **SB 456 Dush, Cris (F) - (PN 436)** The Display of the Preamble Act provides for display of the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States within the entranceway of each school building. Provides the display shall take the form of, but is not limited to, a mounted plaque. Effective in 90 days. *The bill was reported as committed along a party-line vote with all Democratic members voting in the negative. Second Consideration, referred to Senate Appropriations.*
 - v. **SB 460 Bartolotta, Camera - (PN 513)** Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, establishing the Child Reunification Program in the Department of Education (PDE) to assist in locating and returning missing children by providing identification kits. Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, and each school year thereafter, PDE shall provide, to the extent money is appropriated or otherwise available to the department for the purpose, a school entity with identification kits to be distributed to the parents and legal guardians of eligible children. Provides for posting of identification kits available and provides for distribution by no later than Nov. 15 by a school entity. *Effective immediately. The bill was unanimously reported as committed. Second consideration – rereferred to Senate Rules and Executive Nominations.*
 - vi. **SB 647 Gebhard, Chris - (PN 625)** Amends Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for economic education and personal financial literacy programs to indicate the Department of Education (PDE) shall review and update its existing resource information no later than the start of the 2024-2025 school year and review state standards every five years. Public or nonpublic school entities shall provide a mandatory course in personal financial literacy at one-half credit or half of a full credit. Outlines details required by PDE for developing a model curriculum on financial literacy. Effective July 1, 2023, or immediately, whichever is later. *The bill was reported as committed with Minority Chairman Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) voting in the negative.*
- c. Senate Education Committee – House Bills
- i. **HB 100 Tutoring Program** - The State Board of Education shall, by regulation, establish a tutoring program whereby pupils in grades eleven and twelve may tutor pupils in grades one through six. The regulations shall, at a minimum, provide for the following:
 - 1. The qualifications of pupils eligible to serve as tutors.

2. The qualifications of pupils eligible for tutoring.
 3. That participating tutors receive academic credits for serving as tutors.
 4. That, in addition to clause (1), guidelines be established to encourage eleventh and twelfth grade pupils who are not meeting their academic potential to volunteer for the program as tutors if it is determined that serving as tutors could improve their own academic performance.
- ii. **HB 141 Talent Recruitment Account, Grow Your Own Educators Grant** – The program would provide financial assistance, including pathways for educators to help support high-need schools in geographic areas that have hard-to-staff teaching positions. The program would equip aspiring educators with the supports necessary to ultimately become a certified educator. Establishment. The following grow-your-own educator career pathways are established:
1. High school student-to-aspiring educator pathway.
 2. Aspiring-to-enacting educator pathway.
 3. Education support professional-to-educator pathway.
 4. Community member-to-education support professional pathway.
 - i. Working with community colleges to provide teaching courses to students.
- iii. **HB 688 PA Teach Scholarship Program** – Scholarship grant.--The agency shall provide a scholarship grant to an eligible student who is a resident of this Commonwealth. Prior to receiving a scholarship grant under this article, a student must also apply for Federal Pell Grants and State grants available to cover the cost of attendance, as determined by the agency.
1. Enter into a written agreement with the agency:
 - i. Commence employment in this Commonwealth within one year after completion of the approved course of study.
 - ii. Work within this Commonwealth for a period of one year for each academic year that the eligible student received a scholarship grant under this article, unless the agency determines that there are extenuating circumstances.
 - iii. Reimburse the Commonwealth all amounts received under this article if the eligible student does not comply with subparagraphs (i) and (ii).
 - iv. Student teaching.--An eligible student who is engaged in student teaching shall be eligible to receive a scholarship grant.
 - v. Amount.--The agency may award a scholarship grant in an amount up to \$8,000 per academic year to an eligible student.
 - vi. Renewal.--The scholarship grant may be renewed for up to four academic years.
- d. House Education Committee, May 22
- i. **HB 804 Burns, Frank - (PN 762)** Amends "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," further providing for residency of students. Provides veterans, their spouses and dependent children, military personnel, their spouses and dependent children and civilian personnel, their spouses and dependent children admitted to a public institution of higher education, a state-related or state-owned institution or community college shall be charged resident tuition rates provided the student is a resident under this section on the date of deposit confirming their intent to enroll,

begins enrollment within the corresponding term for which the deposit was made and remains in continuous enrollment at the institution. Effective in 60 days. ***The bill was unanimously reported as committed. Unanimously passed in the House, 5/23/23.***

- ii. **HB 1094 Munroe, Brian (F) - (PN 1142)** Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, to provide a school district shall develop a policy or revise existing policy on enrollment of students to allow a child whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, including reserves, and has received official military orders to transfer into or within the commonwealth to enroll in the school district prior to establishing residency. A parent or legal guardian must provide the school district proof of residence in the school district no later than 10 days after the arrival date specified in the military orders. Effective immediately. ***The bill was unanimously reported as committed. Unanimously passed in the House, 5/23/23.***
 - iii. **HB 1025 Frankel, Dan - (PN 1022)** Amends the Public School Code, further providing for definitions and for Safe2Say Program; in postsecondary institution sexual harassment and sexual violence policy and online reporting system, further providing for definitions. Establishes that reporting of hate-based intimidation and training and providing instruction to employees of school entities on how to recognize and report hate-based intimidation are a responsibility of the Safe2Say Program. Provides that nothing in this article may be construed to prohibit a postsecondary institution from including a provision in its sexual harassment, sexual violence and hate-based intimidation policy to govern the receipt of reports from the general public. Effective immediately. ***The bill was voted favorably from House Education and House Judiciary Committees. First consideration; set on Tabled Calendar for June 5, 2023.***
 - 1. A House committee set the stage Monday for some initial action later this week on an anti-hate crimes bill package sponsored by Democratic lawmakers. The Education Committee referred House Bill 1025, one of four bills in the package, to the Judiciary Committee which has scheduled a vote on the package at the call of the chair on Wednesday. The bills in the package would align Pennsylvania's protected classes against hate crimes with those at the federal level, said sponsors Rep. Dan Frankel, D-Allegheny, and Napoleon Nelson, D-Montgomery. They said hate crimes in Pennsylvania are becoming more frequent, but the state doesn't have adequate laws to address them.
- e. House Education Committee Legislative Update
- i. **SB 84 (Sponsors: Phillips-Hill & Schwank) – Protecting the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression - Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to repeal the provision prohibiting public school teachers from wearing religious garb or insignia while in the performance of their duties.** 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. ***This bill passed unanimously in the Senate on January 18.***
 - 1. 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.

- ii. **SB 114 (Brooks) – Firefighter Training Pilot Program for High School Students** - Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to establish a pilot program to provide fire training to secondary school students through institutions of higher education. This bill would create 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 bill passed unanimously in the Senate on January 18.***
 - 1. This legislation passed the Senate unanimously in April 2021, but was not considered by the full House before the close of session.
 - 2. Pennsylvania is facing a severe shortage of volunteer firefighters, with the current number of volunteers down to less than 15% of the number of volunteers in the 1970s
 - 3. 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.
- iii. **SB 232 (Brooks)** Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing a school nurse, school physician or employe of a school district shall remove a tick from a student in accordance with guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH). Makes technical adjustments. Replaces "district" with "entity". Adds the results of a tick test must be provided to the child's parent or guardian and that the school entity may not make copies of the results or include any information regarding the results in the child's school medical record. Adds the school entity may notate the disease as present in the tick, with no identifying or personal information of the child, for the purpose of collecting data on the presence of the disease. Further provides for the tick to be sent to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing if the parent wishes to do so. Provides information on ticks and Lyme disease for parents when after a tick is removed from a student. Requires the secretary of health to publish guidelines online for school districts in consultation with the secretary of education. Adds a definition for school entity. Effective in 60 days. ***Received in the House and referred to House Education.***
- iv. **SB 647 - (PLS Summary)** (PN 625) Amends Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for economic education and personal financial literacy programs to indicate the Department of Education (PDE) shall review and update its existing resource information no later than the start of the 2024-2025 school year and review state standards every five years. Public or nonpublic school entities shall provide a mandatory course in personal financial literacy at one-half credit or half of a full credit. Outlines details required by PDE for developing a model curriculum on financial literacy. Effective July 1, 2023, or immediately, whichever is later. ***Received in the House and referred to House Education.***

- f. Education Bills – Filed and No Movement
- i. **SB 196 - (PLS Summary) (PN 173) The Public School Web Accountability and Transparency (SchoolWATCH)** Act provides within 90 days of the effective date, the Department of Education (PDE) shall publicly post on its website financial information for the public school entity from the most recent school year, a link to the most recent reports the school filed with PDE, a link to the school's website, and a statement instructing the public to contact a public school for access to a union contract. PDE shall post the information in a public and accessible manner. *Effective immediately.*
 - ii. **SB 227 - (PLS Summary) - (PN 196) Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution**, prohibiting the passage of unfunded directives from the General Assembly concerning education passed through legislation. Requires new mandates enacted by statute, regulation or executive order that establish new education programs to provide for the program's implementation through the necessary funding. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.
 - iii. **SB 263 - (PLS Summary) (PN 226)** Amends the Public School Code **establishing the Military Education Scholarship Account**. The scholarship account program is established within the Department of Education (PDE) to approve or deny applications from eligible individuals to receive financial assistance; provides details for applying and receiving approval. Grant amounts are contingent upon the student's disability. Provides accountability over schools participating in the scholarship program. Resident school districts shall provide adequate information to PDE of and provide transportation for the grant awardee. *Effective in 60 days.*
 - iv. **(PN 226)** Amends the Public School Code, **providing for the Military Education Scholarship Account and imposing penalties**. Establishes the Military Education Scholarship Account within the Department of Education (PDE). Provides for application requirements, application forms and review and approval by PDE. Directs the State Treasury to administer the Military Education Scholarship Account. Provides for terms of agreement, termination, automatic termination, number of separate agreements and explanations. Provides that the secretary shall deposit a grant for that school year in the Military Education Scholarship Account of the eligible student. Directs the Treasury to deposit the money for each grant in quarterly installments under a schedule determined by the Treasury. Identifies qualified education expenses. Directs the Treasury to develop a system that enables a parent to pay for services provided by participating entities under the program by electronic money transfer. Provides for the source of payment. Directs the Office of the Auditor General to conduct audits on the accounts. Provides for penalties from the Treasury if the money in the Military Education Scholarship Account is used for expenses other than a qualified education expense. Establishes accountability standards for participating entities. *Effective in 60 days.*
- g. Other Bills
- i. **HB 409 – Mental Health Clearinghouse** (PN 377) Amends the Human Services Code, in mental health, departmental powers and duties, commissioner of mental health, interstate compact, reciprocal agreements and research foundation, providing for mental health

care services clearinghouse. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Department of Health (DOH) to establish a central online clearinghouse in consultation with the Department of Education (PDE). Further provides for accessibility and resources from other agencies and federal funding or private funding. Directs DHS, in cooperation with DOH and PDE, to ensure the clearinghouse is updated on a quarterly basis. Provides state agencies shall promote the availability of the clearinghouse with PDE notifying public and nonpublic entities and relevant public and nonpublic school personnel when the clearinghouse is available. *Effective immediately. Passed House May 23 (155/46). Passed in House (Vote Y: 155/N: 46); Sent to Senate.*

ii. **HB 1100 - Property Tax Relief**

(PN 1148) Amends the Taxpayer Relief Act, in tax relief in cities of the first class, for supplemental senior citizen tax reduction; and, in senior citizens property tax and rent rebate assistance, for property filing of claim. Provides for the program to be tied to the Consumer Price Index. HB 1100 amends the Taxpayer Relief Act to increase the maximum eligibility income limits for the property tax/rent rebate (PTRR) program to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. The bill also increases the maximum rebate amount to \$1,000. *(First Consideration; rereferred to House Appropriations)*

1. amends the Taxpayer Relief Act to increase the maximum eligibility income limits for the property tax/rent rebate (PTRR) program to \$45,000 for both homeowners and renters. The bill also increases the maximum rebate amount to \$1,000.

2. **SB 647 – Repeal of the Sterling Act**

(PN 671) Amends the Local Tax Enabling Act, to establish local taxes in cities of the first class. Provides the council of a city of the first class (Philadelphia) shall not have the authority to levy, assess and collect a tax or provide for the levying, assessment and collection of a tax on a privilege, transaction, subject or occupation, or on personal property, which is or may become subject to a state tax or license fee. Provides the city of the first class may not impose a tax on salaries, wages, commissions or other compensation on a nonresident individual who is employed by an employer whose place of business is located in a city of the first class and performs all employment duties or services outside of the city. Provides if a nonresident performs a portion of the individual's employment duties or services outside of the city of the first class, the city of the first class may only impose a tax on salaries, wages, commissions or other compensation on that portion of salaries, wages, commissions or other compensation attributable to duties performed by the individual within the city of the first class. Provides for duties on the State Treasurer and for reimbursement. Makes related repeals. *Effective in 180 days, or Jan. 1, 2024, whichever is later. Passed the Senate (28/21); Received in the House and referred to House Education.*

3. CCSBLC Round-table Discussion

a. Open Discussion

i. Legislative Breakfast

1. Staying on track with agenda. Moderating the Q & A session to stay on track.
2. Presentations were great, content was useful and seating arrangements were different than usual, which attendees also enjoyed.
3. Cyber Charter Reform

- i. Meetings held with Senator Comitta and Representative Lawrence.
 - ii. Trying to improve the truancy issues
 - iii. Susan Audrain from West Chester heard from Representative Shusterman and Senator Comitta regarding the charter school reform
 - a. Discussion regarding charter school reform in the senate this week.
 - iii. Expulsion Hearings in Pennsylvania
 - iv. A student can withdraw and a student transfer to a new school prior to an expulsion hearing, and the new school is required to enroll that student.
4. PA House and Senate Session Days
 - a. Senate:
 - i. May 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10
 - ii. June 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
 - b. House:
 - i. June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
5. Upcoming CCSBLC meetings:
 - i. Wednesday, June 28 – in person
 - ii. July - No meeting - Legislature not in session
 - iii. August - No meeting - Legislature not in session
6. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:35 p.m.

