Ohio State Board of Education Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: March 22, 2013

State Activity

Introduced Bills

House Bill 107 (Baker, Westlake), to authorize a tax credit for businesses that employ high school students in career exploration internships

Senate Bill 93 (Jones, R-Springboro), to require that further information be stated in motions to hold executive sessions under the Open Meetings Act, to expand the fees and expenses that may be recovered for violations of the Act

This Week's Committees

Senate Ways and Means Committee

The Senate Ways and Means Committee met and passed Senate Bill 42 (Manning, R-North Ridgeville) which would allow school districts to levy a property tax exclusively for school safety and security purposes. The following entities submitted testimony:

- Ohio Education Association
- Ohio School Boards Association
- Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Buckeye Association of School Administrators

House Finance and Appropriations Committee

The House Finance and Appropriations Committee met to hear public testimony on the education provisions in House Bill 59 (Amstutz, R- Wooster), the biennial budget. The committee heard testimony from the following:

- William Phillis, Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding
- Susan Gunnell, Huber Heights City Schools Superintendent
- Anita Brock, Huber Heights City Schools Board Member
- Ann Bernardo, Huber Heights City Schools Treasurer
- Ann Brennan, Ohio School Psychologists Association
- Mark Neal, Tri-Valley Local Schools
- Patrick Colucci, Ashtabula Area City Schools
- Molly Shack, Ohio Student Association
- Sophie Shiloh, Ohio Student Association
- Stefanie Dimofski, Ohio Student Association
- Ann Sheldon, Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- Barbara Bodart, Licking County ESC Coordinator of Gifted Services
- Jennifer Penick, Parent of gifted children
- Ron Sexton, Wilmington City Schools
- Rachel Winters, President of the Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- Lori-Snyder Lowe, Morgan Local Schools

- Thomas Perkins, Northern Local Schools
- Paul Shaw, Logan-Hocking Schools Treasurer
- David Branch, Muskingum Valley ESC
- Christopher Burrows, Georgetown Exempted Village Schools
- Russ Harris, Ohio Education Association
- Doug Marrah, Ashland City Schools
- Rebecca Asmo, Boys and Girls Clubs of Columbus
- Steve Clark, Kettering City Schools Treasurer
- Barbara Shaner, Ohio Association of School Business Officials
- Damon Asbury, Ohio School Boards Association
- Tom Ash, Buckeye Association of School Administrators
- Howard Fleeter, Education Tax Policy Institute

Senate Public Safety Committee
The Senate Public Safety Committee met and held their first hearing on Senate Bill 71 with Senator Tavares (D-Columbus) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would double the fine for speeding in a school zone during restricted hours.

House Education Committee
The House Education Committee met and held its first hearing on Senate Bill 21 with Senator Lehner (R-Kettering) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would revise the requirements for reading teachers under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The committee also heard a presentation from Tina Thomas-Manning regarding the 2012-2013 report card.

Next Week's Committees
The General Assembly will not be holding any committee hearings for the next two weeks.

Federal Activity
FY13 Appropriations and FY14 Budget
This week, the House and Senate approved H.R. 933, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013. The current continuing resolution expires on March 27. H.R. 933 will continue funding government programs through September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Information on H.R. 933 may be accessed here. Also this week, the House approved the FY14 budget resolution by a vote of 221-207. The House budget plan can be accessed here. The Senate rejected the House plan by a vote of 40-59. The Senate is expected to vote on its own FY14 budget resolution as early as today. The Senate FY14 plan can be accessed here.

Ohio Congressional Members Introduce Bipartisan School Nutrition Flexibility Act
Congressman Steve Stivers and Congresswoman Marcia Fudge plan to introduce the School Nutrition Flexibility Act, which contains two no-cost flexibility provisions regarding school meals. A summary of the bill may be accessed here.