Ohio State Board of Education Legislative Update

To: State Board of Education
Re: Legislative Update
Date: March 8, 2013

State Activity

Introduced Bills

Senate Bill 59 (Beagle, R-Tipp City), to authorize an eligible regional council of governments to establish itself as an education energy council for the purpose of issuing debt to pay for school district energy purchases.

House Concurrent Resolution 10 (R.Adams, R-Troy), to designate March 2013 as Career-Technical Education and Skilled Workforce Development Month

This Week's Committees

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

The House Primary and Secondary Education Committee met on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and heard testimony on House Bill 59 (Amstutz, R-Wooster), the biennial budget, from the following witnesses.

- Ann Sheldon, Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- Emma-Jean Stanley, Gifted student
- Kathleen Stanley, Mother of gifted student
- Kimberly Curran, Mother of gifted student
- Hayley Curran, Gifted student
- Sally Roberts, Ohio Association for Gifted Children
- Brenda Gift, Coordinator of Gifted Services for ESC of Lake Erie West
- Barbara Bodart, Coordinator of Gifted Service for Licking County ESC
- Sara Freeman, Western Buckeye ESC Coordinator of Gifted Services
- Dr. Joyce Melainy, Ohio Association of Career Technical Education and Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents
- Chis Renn, Ohio Association of City Career Technical Schools
- Bassam Homsi, Ohio Association of Career Technical Education and Ohio Association of Career Technical Superintendents
- Aimee Kennedy, Metro Early College High School and Ohio STEM Learning Network
- Matt Grushon, Ohio STEM Learning Network
- Craig Burford, Ohio Education Service Center Association
- Tom Goodney, ESC of Central Ohio
- Vikki Clemons, Hamilton County ESC
- Tom Issacs, Warren County ESC
- Bob Caldwell, Wolf Creek Local Schools
- Larry Keough, Catholic Conference of Ohio
- Dan Dodd, Ohio Association of Independent Schools
- Jason Warner, School Choice Ohio
- Ron Adler, Ohio Coalition for Quality Education

- Dwight Crum, Ohio Coalition for Quality Education
- Stephanie Klupinski, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Marianne Lombardo, Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools
- Dave Cash, Ohio Association of Charter School Authorizers
- Bert Wiser, Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow
- Martin Porter, Toledo School for the Arts
- Thomas Babb, Constellation Schools
- Cathy Bryan, Ohio Virtual Academy parent
- Taylor Bryan, Ohio Virtual Academy student
- Paige Baublitz-Watkins, Menlo Park Academy
- Joseph Baszynski, United Schools Network
- Chad Carr, Columbus Preparatory Academy/ Mosaica Education
- Catherine Whitehouse, Intergenerational School
- Michael Reidelbach, Franklinton Preparatory Academy
- Marty Griffith, Franklinton Preparatory Academy
- Richard Albeit, The Arts and College Preparatory Academy
- Anthony Gatto, The Arts and College Preparatory Academy
- GG Howard, The Arts and College Preparatory Academy
- Sophia Lombardo, The Arts and College Preparatory Academy student
- Bradley Harshaw, Life Skills Center
- Leroy Jackson, Life Skills Center graduate
- Gerald Horak, Summit Academy
- MSgt. Ben Merrill, Summit Academy
- Donald Penson, Buckeye Charter School Boards, Inc.

Senate Ways and Means Committee
The Senate Ways and Means Committee met and held its second hearing on Senate Bill 42 (Manning, R-North Ridgeville) which would authorize school districts to levy a property tax exclusively for school safety and security purposes. The following individuals offered proponent testimony.

- David Rice, Vermillion Board of Education
- Michael Weirman, Fraternal Order of Police of Ohio

Senate Safety Panel
The Senate Safety Panel met and held a hearing on school safety focused on security, school infrastructure, law enforcement response, training and protection. The following individuals testified:

- Rick Baron, Ohio Homeland Security
- Robert Fiatal, Ohio Peace Office Training Academy
- Joe Clark, Nordonia Hills City Schools
- Jeremy Jones, Village of Edgerton

Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee
The Senate Medicaid, Health and Human Services Committee met and held its first hearing on Senate Bill 11 with Senator Brown (D-Cleveland) offering sponsor testimony. This legislation would require school districts to allow alternative summer meal sponsors to use school facilities to provide food service for summer intervention services under certain conditions, to allow the distribution and consumption of meals on a school bus, and to create a healthy food license for child care centers and school child programs

Next Week's Committees

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee

The House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee will be meeting on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:30 am in Room 017 of the Statehouse to hear public testimony on House Bill 59 (Amstutz, R-Wooster), the biennial budget.

Senate Safety Panel

The Senate Safety Panel will meet at 7:00 pm in the Finance Hearing Room to hold a hearing on school safety focused on security, school infrastructure, law enforcement response, training and protection.

Federal Activity

House Approves Fiscal Year 2013 Spending Continuing Resolution

On Wednesday, the House approved HR 933, a Continuing Resolution (CR) to continue funding government operations until the end of the fiscal year on September 30, 2013. The legislation includes full-year Defense, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bills, which were approved by the House last year. Those previously approved spending bills provide Defense and Veterans Affairs with flexibility to address the reductions associated with the sequester. However, the CR keeps the funding level for other government programs, such as education, at essentially the FY12 level and does not provide the agencies with spending flexibility to address the sequester. The CR will now be debated in the Senate where an agreement must be reached by March 27 to avoid a potential government shutdown. For more information on the House-passed CR, click here.