

## CCSBLC September Meeting Summary November 29, 2023

### Attendees (Virtual):

Bill Wood (Chairperson, Avon Grove), Susan Audrain (Tredyffrin/Easttown), Tori Baratta (Unionville-Chadds Ford), Jennifer Kehs (Oxford), Wendy Litzke (Great Valley), Dr. John Melniczek (Owen J. Roberts), Mary Curley (CCIU), Melissa Smith (CCIU), Christa Fazio (Unionville-Chadds Ford/CCIU)

- I. Chairperson Bill Wood opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- II. Mary Jeanne Curley, CCIU Director of Communication & Learning Solutions, provided a legislative update as follows.

#### a. Election Update

- i. The PA House once again this year does not have a majority. Bucks County Democratic Rep. John Galloway, who was on the ballot as both parties' nominees won the race for magisterial district judge. Galloway may resign any time before taking the oath as district judge. The vacancy will then require House Speaker Joanna McClinton, also a Democrat, to set a special election no sooner than 60 after Galloway's resignation.
- ii. Under PA State House rules, Democrats will maintain their majority unless and until Republicans win the majority. For the time being Galloway remains a House member.
- iii. Due to a ruling from the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania, which now allows for canvass and tabulation of mail-in ballots with missing or incorrect dates, Chester County delayed the certification of the 2023 General Election until Monday, December 4. The court ruling did not change the outcome of the election in Chester County.

#### b. School Funding & School Code Update

Currently, there are two competing School Funding and Code Bills before the Senate: HB 301 and SB 843, both bills address releasing funds passed in 2023-24 budget but for which there was not a legislative means to distribute, including:

1. \$100 million for school mental health grants
  2. \$100 million in Level Up funds
  3. \$10 million in teacher stipends
  4. \$125 million for school environmental repair grants
  5. \$50 million for school safety and security grant transfers to PCCD
- ii. **HB 301**: On November 15, the Senate passed and amended HB 301, authorizing funding for K-12 schools, community colleges, educational support units and public libraries with a 45-5 vote. It also included \$150 million in funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. It will need to go back to the house for a concurrent vote. The House is in recess until after the holidays.

**SB 843:** The House, in turn, passed an amended Senate Bill 843 on November 15. House amendments included many of the same provisions as HB 301, however it did not include the EITC tax credit funding. The Senate is in session, December 11, 13 and 13. It is unclear if the Senate will take up pass SB 843 as is or amend to include EITC tax credit funding, and send it back to the House, which is not back in session until January 2024.

- iii. The Governor will give his budget address on Tuesday, February 6, when he will introduce his funding proposals for the 24-25 budget.

**c. Legislative Update**

**i. Enacted Legislation**

1. **Act 24 of 2023 fka HB 1094 (Munroe):** This bill amends the Public School Code to allow children of military families to enroll in the school district where they will be living before establishing residency. **Passed House May, 24, 2023 and Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Passed the House. Signed by the Governor: Act 24 Of 2023. Effective Immediately.**

**ii. Newly Introduced**

1. **SB 569 – Mandate Relief:** Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for a mandate waiver program. Establishes a mandate waiver program to allow a governing body to adopt a resolution to apply to the department for a waiver of one or more provisions, regulations of the state board, standards of the secretary, policies or guidance of the department or any other provisions of law permitted to be waived to enable the school entity to improve instructional programs or operate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner. Effective in 60 days.

**iii. Recent Movement**

1. **SB 907 (Senator Reagan) – Armed Security:** SB 907 requires armed school security personnel in all school buildings during the school day starting in the 2024-25 school year. **First Consideration referred to Senate Appropriations, Second Consideration.**
2. **SB 700 (Senator Brooks) – CTE Certification:** SB 700 suggests allows individuals with four years of paid experience in an occupation to obtain a Career and Technical Instructional I Certificate. **Passed Senate, referred to House Education.**

**iv. No Movement**

1. **HB 1258 (Rep. Kinsey) – Dual Enrollment:** HB 1258 amends the School Code by adding Section 1525.1 (Calculation of Average Daily Membership for a Dual Credit Course). This section will allow school entities to include students, who are enrolled in a dual credit course, in their ADM until June 30, 2025. **Passed House,**

**October 4, 2023; first and second considerations in Senate, referred to Senate Appropriations.**

2. **HB 1507 (Topper) – School Year:** This bill proposes allowing flexibility in instructional time in schools, allowing schools to choose between 180 days or 900/990 hours of instruction per year. **Passed House; first and second considerations in Senate, referred to Senate Appropriations.**
  - a. Potential for this to pass in December
3. **SB 7 (Aument) – Parental Control of Sexually Explicit Content:** PN 619 Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for parental notification relating to instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content. Provides the governing body of a school entity shall develop and make public policies that provide parental notification of instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures and standards relating to: directly identifying specific instructional materials and books within libraries of the schools containing sexually explicit subjects and content that are used by or made available to students at school; ensuring parental notification of specific sexually explicit content prior to student exposure; and permitting the parent or legal guardian to review instructional materials that contain sexually explicit content and require the school entity to provide, as an alternative, nonexplicit instructional materials and related academic activities to the student, if requested by the parent or legal guardian, or review a book from the school library containing sexually explicit content that the student wishes to view and prevent the student from viewing the book if requested by the parent or legal guardian. Effective in 60 days. **Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**
4. **SB 340 Online Curriculum Availability:** Beginning 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, a school entity shall post an Internet link or title for every textbook used by the school entity, a course syllabus or a written summary of each instructional course and the State academic standards for each instructional course offered by the school entity on its publicly accessible Internet website. The information shall be updated no later than thirty (30) business days after each time the list of textbooks, syllabi, course descriptions or State academic standards used by the school entity is revised. **Passed the Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**
5. **SB 353 & SB 456 (Dush) – Posting of Preambles:** These bills propose displaying the Preamble of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the United States Constitution respectively in school

buildings, including Intermediate Unit school buildings. **Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**

6. **SB 757**: School voucher program. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program (“PASS Scholarship Program”) is established as a program in the State Treasury (“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. School districts with at least one school designated as a low-achieving school must notify the parents of all students who are attending or residing within the attendance boundary of the low-achieving school of the school’s designation. **Passed Senate; Received in House Education on September 25, 2023.**

### III. **Member Discussion**

- a. Chairperson Wood: With the Mandate Relief bill in consideration, is there the opportunity to come together as districts to jointly request relief from the same mandates to potentially force a review of the actual mandates themselves?
  - i. Mary Curley mentioned a past list that PASBO worked to develop to prioritize the list of mandates and associate those mandates with actual costs.
- b. Chairperson Wood: Is there a desire to develop a shared resolution opposing public funds going to private schools without accountability (EITC/School Vouchers)? As in the past, this would be an agreed upon resolution that each school board would pass individually.
  - i. *Next step*: Each Board member to do a temperature check with their individual boards to see if there is support for developing a resolution.

### IV. **Remaining 2023 Session Days PA House and Senate**

- a. December 11, 12, 13 (Senate only for all three days; House is not scheduled to return until January)
- b. Session days for both chambers is typically published end of December or beginning of January.

### V. **CCSBLC Meeting Schedule**

- a. No meeting in December
- b. IN PERSON: January 24, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. VIRTUAL: February 28, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
- d. Legislative Breakfast: Tentative date is March 1, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.
- e. VIRTUAL: April 24, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
- f. IN PERSON: May 22, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
- g. VIRTUAL: June 26, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

- II. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.