**DRAFT Ohio 8 Quarterly Meeting Summary**

**December 12-13, 2013**

**December 12th**

**Legislative Updates**

* **Grad Requirements (HB 193):** Passed the house with a majority of the Ohio 8 recommendations included in some form. These included increased amount of time to implementation (bumping changes to 2015), prohibiting online testing before 2015 for 3-8 grades, mandating the state board conduct a technology assessment, and that the State Board needs to give 2-weeks’ notice on anything regarding academic standards. ACS has scheduled a meeting with Sen. Lehner for January on Grad Requirements.

*Action: ACS will be reaching out to OH8 regarding meeting with Sen. Lehner on Grad Requirements.*

* **Common Core (HB & SB 237):** No more hearings expected in the House for this, but the Senate bill will require a first hearing, but not on agenda in the foreseeable future (sponsor)

*Action: Poll all Ohio 8 Districts regarding how much everyone has invested in Common Core collectively (PD time and money), if/when this comes back around.*

* **Property Valuation (SB 52):** Limits the right to file property tax complaints. Has not moved and not a priority at this time.
* **Teacher Evaluation (SB 229):** Senate bill that passed included drop in value-added from 50% to 35%, as well as greater local flexibility in administering teacher evaluations.
* **Concealed weapons (HB 8):** House education committee bill (passed but not yet on the house floor) that allows for school boards or governing authority of charters etc. to allow for employees, including teachers, to carry concealed weapons. Ohio 8 discussion on this concluded that this is generally a bad idea.

*Action: Cassie sending out survey to gauge level of comfort with options of carrying guns.*

*Idea: Lori suggested that there should be student input regarding this issue*

* **Open Enrollment Task Force (SB 123):** Panel tasked with recommending updates to the state’s open enrollment policy. They are set to deliver recommendations 12/31/13. Dan Good is on the committee. Committee agreed to recommend allowing districts to cap the number of students.

*Action: Dan will email out the recommendations report once it released.*

* **School Funding Caucus:** Organized and led by Rep. John Patterson. (D). A lot of conversation is about unfunded mandates. Lori Ward spoke about her conversation with caucus member Lori Snyder Lowe (Morgan Local) on dual enrollment.
* **Charter Reform Meetings:** Comprised of OASBO, OEA, BASA, OFT, CORAS, Students First, OSBA, Led by Steve Dyer. Has been kept quiet and has had careful thought about who is part of these meetings. Fordham has been tentatively engaged but not at meetings. Issues discussed: Transparency, equity, access to financial information, fairness in marketing, quality, etc. The Ohio 8 discussed whether to engage with this group or not, and the consensus was yes.

*Action: Eric Gordon and (backup) Dan Good will “staff” these meeting. January. 22nd is good. Julie Sellers also “passionately” interested in this.*

* **Statehouse Activity (this quarter):** 12 meetings with Senate and House members and staff this quarter. Also, testified twice and released common core statement.
* **Media**: Cleveland Plain Dealer covered Ohio 8 on the common core and good Gongwer coverage. Continuing outreach to others.
* **State Board Activity - VP Gunlock:** Lori was on December conference call regarding the gifted report card. In January will discuss standards and career tech report card.

*Action: Set up monthly conference call and/or in-person meeting between State Board and Ohio 8 designated representatives Kevin Dalton and Adrian Allison.*

* **Gifted Standards:** Handout provided with what a gifted report card would look like. Colleen Grady and Tom created the handout. Will be acting on this relatively quickly – before the full state board by early February.

*Action: Cincinnati & Cleveland’s EMIS gifted coordinators will review gifted report card and offer feedback to Cassie Gaffney by January 6th.*

**Road Show:** Discussed the districts that have reached out to (Oregon and Berea) and will be reaching out to (inner ring superintendents, Stark etc.). The group discussed the idea to create a newsletter or update quarterly, as well as how to reach out to Lorain County districts (handout).

*Action: Add Princeton as possible new district to reach out to (as per Julie Sellers) especially since Cincinnati now has Straight A grant with them. Criteria – finance, education and leadership.*

*Action: David Quolke and Lori Ward reaching out to Vermillion and Lorain JVS respectively to connect with who is leading the Lorain group of districts.*

**CORAS:** Have met a couple of times, and discussed transportation research since CORAS has chosen to spend research dollars on studying transportation. Next meeting January 10th. The group discussed concerns about the direction of the transportation study.

*Action: ACS will put OH8 thoughts on transportation concerns and direction in writing*

*Action: Lori W. will attend next CORAS meeting*

**Mid-Biennium Budget Review (MBR):** February - April.

Topics: Early Childhood Education, graduation requirements, tax cuts, and juvenile justice. Discussed Juvenile Justice System Issues and school discipline policies. Group meeting for past 8 months on prevention side. Gov. doing town halls around the state. Invitations going out to Romules, David James, Eric, and Mary. Will be introduced as a separate bill and then rolled into MBR.

*Action: All Ohio 8 members will commit 1 day/month to testify and/or meetings during MBR process.*

*Action: Call with CFO’s to discuss issues with existing budget and what to consider in the new budget.*

**Continuing Priorities and What’s Next:** The group discussed and reaffirmed the legislative priorities for the Ohio 8, as well as identified members to take on the key issues for the Ohio 8 work. See complete list of these key issues and identified point-persons are at the end of this document.

**HR Update:**  HR Directors and counterparts met July 30th and October 10th to discuss shared recruitment strategies and are working on a joint job fair (March 8th), expanding Ohio 8 website, and researching screening tools, among other ideas. They will also be working on an extension for this grant to continue work on a shared recruitment plan.

**December 13th**

**Work Plan:** David Quolke went over the metrics. Last bullet under the metrics will be the ACS report. Eric suggested adding a note that this data is based on the current metric system. David Q. made the motion to approve the work plan with Eric’s annotation, Geneva seconded and all approved.

**Open Discussion of District/Administrative Issues**

* Kevin Dalton brought up question of making sure unions can be part of calls.
* Lori brought up timing of Friday 8am calls – reaffirmed that 8am Friday is a good time.
* **Straight A Fund Discussion:** Cincinnati was awarded a grant for ELL in partnership with Princeton and Xavier (for training). $14.5 million that spent in 6 months. They will be translating forms into other languages, which the entire Ohio 8 will have access to. The group discussed the Ohio 8 applying for the next round for the 3rd Grade Reading Guarantee.

*Action: Gather ideas for a straight A fund application. Find out timing for this grant process.*