

Board Report Item

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

May 10, 2017

Legislative Update – 85th Regular Session

Board Goals:

Vision – Cultivate a network of professional learning communities addressing the educational needs of every child in our district; develop and maintain a culture where learning remains our first priority; and, remain committed to providing equitable and outstanding opportunities for every student on every campus.

Climate – Celebrate, respect and promote the values of diversity in our Denton ISD Community; and, encourage and nourish a safe learning and compassionate working environment which ensures open and transparent communication and is supportive, cooperative, and ethical.

Parent and Community Involvement – Foster a positive and welcoming environment that encourages parent and community partnerships to achieve success for all our students; utilize citizens' advisory committees to focus on short and long-term tasks; and, promote child advocacy across the state and nation.

Growth, Change & Fiscal Responsibility – Review and adjust policies and procedures as appropriate to address the challenges of rapid growth and changing demographic characteristics while maintaining and enhancing our strong sense of community; create and continuously modify strategies to mitigate increasing stresses on our children, our schools and our community; work continuously with our community to adjust and enhance district goals as appropriate; demonstrate effective and efficient management of district resources; and, provide leadership and/or oversight to ensure District meets all fiscal, legal, and regulatory requirements.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is references pending legislation as related to public education and is intended to generate discussion regarding relevant legislation.

Objectives:

- Review Fast Growth Schools legislative updates

[SB 2052/L. Taylor](#) - Relating to the first day of the school year for public schools.

- Allows school districts to begin the school year on the third Monday in August.
- Prohibits school districts from including school start date in their District of Innovation plan.
- **Scheduled to be heard in Senate Ed on May 4 at 9:00 am. Members of the committee can be found [here](#).**

[HB 1865/Krause](#) - Relating to the scheduling of the first and last days of school for students by school districts.

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- Prohibits school districts from including school start date in their District of Innovation plan.
- Prohibits a school district from beginning the school year before the Tuesday after Labor Day.
- Prohibits a school district from ending the school year after the Friday preceding Memorial Day.
- **Has been heard but not voted out of House Public Education Committee**

[HB 1180/Goldman](#) - Relating to the scheduling of the last day of school for students by public school districts.

- Prohibits a school district from ending the school year after the Friday preceding Memorial Day.
- **Has been voted out of House Public Education Committee and is headed to the Calendars Committee**

Wednesday - May 3, 2017

[HB 1081 by Arevalo](#) - Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.

- This bill will allow NIFA to be used for new facilities, repurposed facilities and leased facilities that have a lease of at least ten years.
- If Huberty adds his [HB 2051](#) language to Arevalo's bill, we would support that language as well. Huberty's language would increase the NIFA funding from \$250 to \$1000 per student without a fiscal note on the bill.

New: Friday, May 5, 2017

[HB 2051 by Huberty](#) - Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.

- This bill increases the per student amount from \$250 to \$1000 for new campus start up costs.
- The NIFA program has not been updated since its inception in 1999. The current cost of opening a new elementary campus is approximately \$1.5 million.
- The bill has no fiscal note because it is subject to a state budget appropriation of \$47.5 million per biennium.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

[HB 3438 by Koop](#) - Relating to the creation of a state financing program administered by the Texas Public Finance Authority to assist school districts with certain expenses; granting authority to issue bonds or other obligations.

Background info:

HB 3438 would authorize the Texas Public Finance Authority (TPFA) to provide \$100 million

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in equipment financing for Texas public schools. Equipment must be purchased by public schools for a sufficient number of instructional campuses that must be added to keep up with the yearly increase of nearly 80,000 students enrolled in Texas public schools. Additional equipment needs are related to aging instructional facilities that must be renovated periodically to help extend the future life of these facilities. Positive economic benefits from the bill include:

- Provide additional options to districts to minimize any increase in total debt principal and interest payments in the future years
 - Provide additional options to follow best business practices related financing costs for equipment purchases
 - Provide lower interest rates compared to what is offered by other financing sources in the current market place
 - Provide lower overall costs related to purchases of capital equipment
 - Help school districts balance their budgets
 - Provide increased economic efficiencies in various function areas in school districts benefiting from the TPFA financing program
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- The bill would lower the operating costs of school districts due to the economic savings the TPFA program would provide.
 - Review legislation moving through the House Public Education Committee and the Senate Education Committees
 - Open discussion for relevant funding and budgeting legislation

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the Senate Committee on Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C530>

To access the complete list and status of bills filed with the House Committee on Public Education, visit:

<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Reports/Report.aspx?ID=committee&LegSess=85R&Code=C410>

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Operational Impact:

None noted

Results:

Advantages:

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Staying abreast of legislative proposals and actions, while preparing for conversation and discussion with our legislature may have significant impact to policies directly impacting public education. Sharing information with our Denton ISD community creates a stronger voice and prepares voters as they consider policies impacting public education. Partnering with the State & Federal Relations Committee and other such organizations reflects a strong partnership within the Denton community, which supports public education.

Disadvantages:

None noted

Other Options:

None noted