

From: Charlie Glaes
Sent: Friday, February 08, 2013 10:57 AM
To: Karen Hill
Subject: FW: Legislative update for the week of January 28th

-----Original Message-----

From: masa-supt [mailto:masa-supt@listserv.melg.org]
Sent: Friday, February 01, 2013 4:07 PM
To: Charlie Glaes
Subject: Legislative update for the week of January 28th

In this update:

House Education Chairwoman Announces Legislative Priorities Rep. McMaster
Introduces "Michigan
School Protection Act"
Flanagan Calls For Teacher Salaries Topping \$100K

House Education Chairwoman Announces Legislative Priorities

This week, House Education Chairwoman Lisa Lyons revealed her top agenda items for the new legislative session. First on her list is codification of the Education Achievement Authority (EAA). The EAA is currently operating in 15 schools in Detroit under an interlocal agreement. Legislation introduced last session failed to garner enough support during the last days of lame duck legislative session and remains a top priority for Governor Snyder.

The Chairwoman expressed interest in providing more flexibility in the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) for students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs. Several bills to address this concern have already been introduced this session:

- HB 4072 (Rep. Nesbitt): Removes the requirement for students to complete certain MMC requirements in order to receive a diploma. The legislation strongly encourages schools to offer a foreign language experience for students, but removes the courses as a requirement for graduation.
- HB 4073 (Rep. McBroom) & SB 66 (Sen. Proos): Reduces the number of credits currently required under the MMC and allows them to be replaced by credits approved by the MDE and State Board of Education in order to allow for flexibility for students enrolled in CTE programs.

- HB 4088 (Rep. Johnson): Relieves students enrolled in vocational or CTE programs from certain MMC requirements, including Algebra II and one science credit, and allows flexibility for completion of other requirements.

- HB 4102 (Rep. Potvin): Removes foreign language requirements from the MMC.

Finally, Rep. Lyons plans to examine opportunities to expand early childhood education. Governor Snyder and Senator Kahn have also indicated early childhood education is a priority for the new legislature. While no legislation has been introduced to date, MASA and MAISA look forward to working with the legislature on this important issue.

Rep. McMaster Introduces "Michigan School Protection Act"

Representative Greg McMaster introduced legislation establishing the "Michigan School Protection Act". The bill allows teachers, administrators and employees of a school to carry a concealed pistol on school grounds. The bill allows administrators in each school district to decide whether arming staff is the best policy to keep students and staff safe. If a school district adopts a policy to allow staff to carry concealed weapons, the staff member must obtain a concealed pistol license (CPL) and may be required to complete additional training measures as determined by the school district.

Flanagan Calls For Teacher Salaries Topping \$100K

This week State Superintendent Mike Flanagan indicated in Gongwer News that "if schools want to get the best and brightest for teachers, particularly in mathematics and science, they are going to have to offer salaries of at least \$100,000." He said in many communities, those teaching math and science were not primarily educated in those subjects. The problem will grow worse under new standards for teachers that will essentially allow only the best and brightest in the classroom and the current salary levels to not attract those who are educated in those subjects.

"When you ratchet up teacher salaries to \$100,000-plus, market forces will direct more mid-career changers and you'll attract more math and science college students into our educator prep programs," he said. "(W)e need to get past the lip service and value them to the greatest extent possible." Similar

salary schedules need to be available for other subject areas as well, he said. "We need to be moving all teachers to that salary level to continue getting the best and brightest people educating our students," he said. "It's all about talent."

Flanagan told Gongwer that he was not necessarily seeking new money, but nothing should be off the table. "If people say and believe that teachers are one of the most important keys to the future of Michigan's economic future, they should pay them accordingly and expect results," he said adding "the discussion to get to the goal of aligning pay and expectation could mean adding money to education budgets."

Please contact Brad Biladeau or Emily Laidlaw with any questions.

Sent from my iPad

You are currently subscribed to masa-supt as:
cglaes@vicksburgschools.org.