

TERESA L. SCHOOLEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Twenty - Third District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES
Education, Chair
Capital Infrastructure
Health & Human Development
Veterans Affairs

Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2010

Chair Schooley called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm. Members present were Representatives Barbieri, Oberle, Walls, Jaques, Mulrooney, Manolakos, Briggs-King, Kowalko, Q. Johnson, Blakey, Kovach. For a list of guests present, please see attached.

Chair Schooley began the meeting by introducing the Reading ASSIST Institute (RAI) representatives and asked Sally Coonin to make her presentation. Sally Coonin, Director of Development and Public Relations for RAI, then thanked the representatives for letting her speak on behalf of RAI. She then introduced the staff she had with her: Marilyn Monahan, Executive Director, and Judi Caroleo, the Director of Instruction.

Ms. Coonin then talked about RAI's mission and its history. She stated that RAI's mission is based on improving the reading skills of children who are at risk for reading failure. This is done to improve their academic potential, quality of life and to help them become productive citizens. She then brought up how RAI was started in 1979 by a mother, Ginger Biasotto, who was helping her son overcome dyslexia. Ms. Coonin commented that in 1989, Ms. Biasotto, seeing her son's improvement, founded Project ASSIST, which later became Reading ASSIST.

Ms. Coonin stated that RAI has grown steadily in the past 20 years to 43 schools. RAI has a K-3 volunteer tutor program along with a parental involvement program as well as a fee-based professional development program for educators. She then commented that they have just expanded into downstate Delaware by opening up a new facility in Milford.

Judi Caroleo, RAI Director of Instruction, then guided the committee through an activity where they had to read through a pamphlet and then were asked to comment about what they had read. She then commented on the research aspect of RAI. She stated that some children are not able to process reading skills and there are now research-based methods to see how children normalize reading in their brains. This research is based on the response time of a child's brainwaves.

Ms. Caroleo then commented that 34% of fourth graders have below basic reading skills for their grade level, and to decrease that percentage there must be more intensive reading instruction. Classrooms must be around 20-30 children, and teachers must be able to identify when children are falling behind. She then concluded by stating that new

research-based reading interventions are more: explicit, systematic, intensive and supportive, all of which RAI has established in their programs.

Next, Marilyn Monahan, Executive Director of RAI, commented about the need for RAI programs, its value and their success. She stated that 39,231 Delaware students need more help with reading programs and over 2,700 of them need intensive intervention. Illiterate adults make up 75% of the unemployed and 70% of high school dropouts. She commented that there needs to be more programs, and RAI is a nationally known organization. She then thanked the committee and Chair Schooley and asked for any questions or comments.

Rep. Scott then commented by saying that RAI has expanded their offerings and asked for everyone to reach out to businesses in their district to help this valuable organization.

Chair Schooley then called on Rep. Oberle to introduce his bill, **HOUSE BILL 363, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THE HISTORY OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN AMERICA AND THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS.** Rep. Oberle commented that the collective bargaining process and organized labor are important aspects for the quality of life of this country and should be taught in Delaware classrooms. He then stated how there may be a better option than HB 363, and he would like to open it up for discussion on how to go about this. He concluded by saying that he would like to develop a proper collective bargaining curriculum for the 2011-2012 school year but may not want it to be mandated.

Chair Schooley then commented that having collective bargaining process in the school curriculum would be a good move, but there may be a lot of issues by putting this into code. There may be a lot of groups coming up and advocating for what they would like to put in school curriculum. She then asked if it would be better to work with DOE to establish how to put this into the curriculum. Rep. Oberle then stated that he would like to work with the DOE and would like to have this in the school curriculum.

Chair Schooley then asked the committee for any comments. Rep Kowalko commented that the collective bargaining process has been very important for America and would like to see it as part of a social studies course.

Chair Schooley then asked for any comments from the public. Len McCartney, Teamster Local 326, commented that organized labor has helped out this country for so many reasons. He stated that organized labor and students have helped bring up many social changes and all around the world organized labor has helped break down many social injustices. He then concluded that this is important for students to learn and know about.

Sam Lathem, of the AFL-CIO, then commented that students in Japan must visit Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in order for them to never forget their countries' past. He then brought up how organized labor is an important part of America's past and should not be left out of the students' curriculum. He stated that organized labor has help with equal

rights and women's suffrage and not teaching this in the classroom would be a great injustice to Delaware's children. He then thanked the committee for allowing him to speak.

Chair Schooley commented that the women's movement worked hand-in-hand with labor. She stated that she would like women's issues to be included with the labor movement. She then called upon Susan Haverstroh, from the DOE, to comment on school curriculum issues.

Ms. Haberstroh commented that the concern is not with this topic area, it is about what other topics schools would like to have included. Right now, there are national standards reviews going on and curriculums need to be aligned with these standards. There is a Delaware recommended curriculum and that provides recommendations for teachers and this may be the best way to go about adding in organized labor.

Rep. Oberle then commented that he would like to see a resolution passed by the House and Senate by June 30, 2010. Ms. Haberstroh then stated that she would like to help put something together. Rep. Kowalko then asked if social studies is in the standardized curriculum. Ms. Haberstroh followed up by saying that there are social studies standards, but she is not sure where this will be added in the standardized curriculum.

Rep. Oberle then asked for the bill to be tabled with the understanding that it will be worked on in the next two weeks; Rep. Kowalko seconded the motion. HB 363 was respectfully tabled.

Chair Schooley then asked Vice Chair Scott to introduce **HOUSE BILL 399, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EDUCATION**. He stated that the bill creates a scholarship program, similar to SEED, for Delaware State University to help them be competitive with the other schools who receive SEED scholarships. He then commented that 70% of DSU students are first-generation college students, and this bill will allow them to gain some state financial assistance to attend DSU. This program was made to be structured after SEED and has many requirements, including a raised GPA standard and community service. Rep. Scott commented that the way the bill has been structured, the program will be enabled by action of the Joint Finance Committee, in which the funding will be formatted later on in the process.

Chair Schooley then called upon Sen. Bushweller to comment on the bill. He stated that he supports this because the SEED program has created some unintended consequences, which has directed students away from DSU. DSU is trying to move forward, and the SEED program has been hindering that growth. HB 399 will help DSU gain ground in Delaware.

Mike Morton, Office of the Controller General, then made some comments about the fiscal note and the costs of the program that was handed out to the committee members.

He stated that this program is capped at the amount a SEED program student would receive.

Rep. Oberle then stated that he supports this legislation, and this bill is the missing piece of the pie that DSU has been looking for. Rep. Kovach then commented that he supports this bill, and this will help fix the unintended consequences created by the SEED program. He then asked why there is a standard that the students would have to attend full-time.

Rep. Scott then stated that this program was modeled after the SEED program, and they were not looking to deviate too far from those standards. Rep. Kovach then followed up by commenting that he is concerned that some students that are not planning on going to college full-time right after their senior year would not be eligible for these funds.

Chair Schooley then commented that the last bill on the agenda, SB 41, is about the SEED program and allowing foster children to gain these funds attending part-time. She and Rep. Scott stated that there may be an amendment attached to this bill for part-time students.

DSU President Dr. Harry L. Williams then stated that he is appreciative of the sponsors and that the bill will help Delawareans for a long time. Rep. Miro then commented that he supports the bill and this will help Delawareans take advantage of the state offerings that Delaware Tech students have been enjoying. He then stated that it would be a good idea to identify a specific time to have the funds for this program.

Rep. Scott then commented that he would like to have a timeframe, but right now the funding is difficult to come by. He then stated that he would like this program to be enabled and then when the funds are available in, the program will be in full swing.

Rep. Oberle then commented that this is an important program and that he will help his colleagues on the JFC to look at this program favorably. Rep. Blakey then commented that he is in full support of this bill, and this program is needed for DSU to stay competitive with Delaware residents.

Rep. Blakey motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Oberle seconded the motion. HB 399 was released from committee on an 11-0-0 vote.

Laird Stabler, on behalf of Wilmington University, then made a statement to the committee. He stated that the goal of this bill is laudable and Wilmington University is concerned that this is only intended for DSU and not the other schools in Delaware. He then brought up how this creates an uneven playing field, and he would like the opportunity to work with the sponsors to try to include other state universities.

Rep. Blakey then commented that this legislation was made for DSU, which is a state school and Wilmington University is a private institution and these are two very different schools.

Vice Chair Scott asked for any questions or comments on **SENATE BILL 41, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FOSTER CARE AND THE SEED PROGRAM**. Seeing none, he then asked for a motion.

Rep. Barbieri motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Scott seconded the motion. SB 41 was released from committee on a 0-9-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Trevor Felix