OSBA Bill Spotlight: House Bill 3075 brings additional mandate relief

At the direction of OSBA’s Legislative Policy Committee, OSBA legislative staff has drafted several bills that bear the tagline “at the request of the Oregon School Boards Association.” On April 10, the House Education Committee voted 9-0 in favor of another OSBA proposal: House Bill 3075. Sponsored by State Representative Jeff Barker (D-Aloha), the bill makes several important changes to current mandates on school districts and education service districts.

The bill, which was adopted with the -2 amendment, makes three important improvements to current mandates related to physical education (PE), achievement compacts and personnel policies:

- With the creation of the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), school districts are required to constitute achievement compact advisory committees and submit an achievement compact annually. Currently, advisory committee reports are due February 1 and achievement compacts are due by July 1. HB 3075 would change those dates to May 1 and October 15, respectively. There has been significant feedback from the field that the current dates do not allow for due deliberation and that much of the student achievement data for the current school year is not available prior to the submission deadlines. The change to these dates allows school boards and district staff to make fully informed decisions about goal setting with the most recent student data available.

- Currently, districts are required to annually report on “the physical capacity” of their schools to provide PE, including the square footage and types of facilities available for PE instruction. They are also required to report how many additional facilities they will need to meet the PE mandate that goes into effect during the 2017-18 school year. HB 3075 will require that school districts only submit this report when they have actual changes to their facilities due to construction, remodeling or demolition. Now, districts must submit the data yearly, even when there are no changes to report.

- Oregon statute requires that school districts maintain a physical, paper copy of the district’s personnel policies in the business office and library of every school in the district. With approximately 1,500 schools in the state, close to 3,000 written copies of these policies must be updated and replaced every time there is a change to the policy. HB 3075 deletes the requirement that the paper copies be kept in schools and instead allows them to be made available to employees or the public by other means, such as posting on the internet or printing a copy on demand.

The House is expected to vote on HB 3075 in the next two weeks. Contact Morgan Allen at mallen@osba.org if you have questions.

View HB 3075: http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=hb 3075&c=50&key=HB 30750&ptadd=: HB 3075 Details

Budget hearings planned in six cities across Oregon

The Legislature’s Joint Ways and Means Committee will hold six public hearings across the state to consider comments on the state budget. The Oregon School Boards Association encourages board members to attend and make their views known on how the state budget will affect local districts.

Hearings will begin in Eugene and include stops in Ashland, Bend, Hermiston, Portland and Tillamook. Several of the meetings will offer live streaming, and the Hermiston meeting will offer video conferencing.

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* Live link available in other eastern Oregon locations, details pending.

View hearing details: http://www.osba.org/News%20Center/Announcements/2013-04-09_Budget_hearings.aspx
Ways and Means committee considers OEIB budget

On April 9, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education held the first public hearing on the Governor’s budget proposal for the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) during the 2013-15 biennium.

Chief Education Officer Rudy Crew outlined the proposed budget for his office; amendments for the budget will be prepared for Senate Bill 5548. Dr. Crew’s testimony highlighted some of the major policy and budget issues related to OEIB, including:

- The Governor’s Recommended Budget (GRB) proposes that the OEIB be constituted as a state agency. Currently, the budget for the OEIB is included in the Office of the Governor.
- The GRB proposes a $7.2 million General Fund budget with 19 total positions. The OEIB currently has 11 positions and a budget of approximately $3 million. The additional eight positions would be part of an OEIB “Policy and Research Unit” which would focus on gathering information related to achievement compacts, analyzing return on investment and best practices and drafting model educational policies to implement best practices more broadly.
- The GRB sets aside $1 million to create a “regional achievement compact” pilot project. The proposal is described as “…regional consortia representing early learning, K-12, community colleges and 4-year universities” on a volunteer basis to work with “health providers, civic and cultural groups, parent advocates, non-profits, businesses and social services…to meet the needs of children, students and graduates.”
- The GRB also includes: $250,000 in General Fund support to initiate a statewide marketing campaign to support the proposed “Oregon Reads” initiative, and $200,000 in General Fund support which could be used at the discretion of the Chief Education Officer.

For clarification, SB 5548 as drafted does not contain the specific OEIB budget proposals. At the discretion of the committee, amendments will be prepared that specify funding for staff and proposed initiatives. The hearing was also unrelated to the proposed $30+ million in strategic state investments proposed by OEIB and contained in House Bill 3232. These investments are contained in three major policy initiatives: Oregon Early Reading Program (Oregon Reads), Guidance and Support for Post Secondary Aspirations and Connecting to the World of Work.

Charter school bill moves forward

The House Education Committee this week approved House Bill 2150, which amends Oregon’s charter school law. A similar piece of legislation was introduced during the 2011 session, but failed to be approved by the Legislature.

HB 2150 is a product of a process that OSBA initiated to review Oregon’s charter school laws, in response to requests from districts, charter advocates and agencies to assess the law on the 10-year anniversary of its enactment. In 2010, OSBA created the OSBA Charter Review Committee, a work group consisting of representatives of public schools, charter schools, the Oregon Department of Education, the Legislature, education associations, parents, teachers and other education stakeholders.

OSBA Legislative Specialist Lori Sattenspiel testified in support of HB 2150, stating, “The nine-month process undertaken produced a bill with unanimous support from a very diverse group of stakeholders, which is a step forward for schools, charter schools, parents and students.”

HB 2150’s key provisions would:

- Prohibit individuals from serving on both a sponsoring school board and a charter school board within a district;
- Extend timelines for applications to establish new charter schools;
- Clarify that charter schools are bound by the non-profit laws of Oregon; and
- Establish a mediation process in the event of disputes between a charter school and its sponsor.

The committee altered the bill to allow a school district that has become a charter school district to have only one financial audit prepared. Under current law, both the school district and charter school are required to have annual audits. Since they are one and the same, it did not make sense to require them to have multiple financial audits prepared.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Contact Lori Sattenspiel at lsattenspiel@osba.org if you have questions about this bill.

View HB 2150:
http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2150&c=50&key=HB21500&ptadd=: HB 2150 Details

View Senate Bill 5548:
http://www.leg.state.or.us/13reg/measpdf/sb5500.dir/sb5548.intro.pdf
Collective bargaining bill moves to the Senate

A bill to change the collective bargaining process passed the House on a party line vote this week, with Democrats in support and Republicans opposed.

House Bill 2448, as amended, would ultimately add binding arbitration to the expedited bargaining process if parties cannot reach agreement in the 90-day bargaining window. However, prior to parties being subjected to binding arbitration if no agreement is reached after 90 days, the matter will be submitted to the State Conciliation Service for mediation. After mediation, if the parties still cannot reach agreement, the matter is referred to the Employment Relations Board for binding arbitration as provided in ORS 243.742.

Lisa Freiley, OSBA director of legal, labor and PACE services, testified in opposition to HB 2448. “For a school district, this bill is a solution in search of a problem. While schools use the expedited bargaining process sparingly, it is a necessary tool. Most collective bargaining agreements are pretty comprehensive, but there are occasional issues not covered by the collective bargaining agreement which can be resolved through the expedited bargaining process,” Freiley said.

The bill now awaits the Senate President’s referral to a Senate committee.

Contact Lori Sattenspiel at lsattenspiel@osba.org for more information.

View HB 2448 here: http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2448&c=50&key=HB 24480&ptadd=:

Questions about legislative issues?

Contact the OSBA Legislative Services Team:
800-578-6722 or 503-588-2800

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Lori Sattenspiel lsattenspiel@osba.org

Contact your legislator

Find your legislators’ contact information on the Oregon Legislature’s website:
- House - http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/
- Senate - http://www.leg.state.or.us/senate/
To contact your legislator by phone, call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-800-332-2313.