

PSBA Liaison Legislative Update 09/08/11

- I. Link to August 18, 2011 testimony by Thomas Gentzel, PSBA Executive Director to the House Education Committee re: tax payer funded tuition vouchers (SB 1, HB 1708, HB 1678 and HB 1679), and the proposed expansion of charter schools (SB 904 and HB 1348)

http://www.psba.org/issues-advocacy/advocacy-services/legislative-testimony/2011/testimony-vouchers_charters-gentzel-aug1811.asp

- II. More information about SB 904 and HB 1348:

General Summary

SB 904 and HB 1348 are identical pieces of legislation that repeal current statutory provisions regarding charter and cyber charter schools. The bills also amend the Public School Code with a new article providing for charter and cyber charter schools, including provisions regarding the authorization, management and accountability of such schools. They establish a commission to serve as an authorizer for charter and cyber charter schools, oversee and enforce the timely payment to charter and cyber charter schools and ensure that charter and cyber charter schools comply with federal laws and regulations regarding children with disabilities, among other powers and duties. The bills further require PDE to convene a statewide advisory committee to examine the financing of charter schools and cyber charter schools in the public education system. **Reform of charter and cyber charter school funding is not addressed in these bills.**

More:

http://www.psba.org/issues-advocacy/issues-research/cyber-charter-schools/summary_sb904_hb1348-june2011.asp

- III. At the upcoming Leadership Conference (there is still time to register! Third week of October!), the outcomes and recommendations of the PSBA Governance Review Commission will be presented to school board members. This Commission has worked diligently for two years, and have formulated significant changes in the overall governance structure of PSBA. Everything from legislative platform development to the nominating process has been reviewed and re-structured – for the better, in my opinion. The PSBA Board of Directors has approved the go-ahead on the recommendations at the July Board Meeting. These changes will go into effect over the next two years.

- IV. Upcoming Events:

- 1) **Key Financial Must-Haves: *Generating Revenue, Cutting Costs and Developing Referenda***
September 7, 15 and 27; October 6, 25 and 26 at various locations
- 2) **PASA –PSBA School Leadership Conference Oct. 18-21, 2011 Hershey Lodge and Conv Cntr.**
- 3) Web Conferences:
 - a. Operating Successfully in the Sunshine without Getting Burned 9/20/11 1p & 7p
 - b. Eight Characteristics of Effective School Boards 10/25/11 1p & 7p
 - c. Practical Steps in Closing a School Building 11/15/11 1p & 7p