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From: Joy Frank
Sent: Thursday, September 19, 2019 5:10 PM
Subject: Legislative Update
Attachments: 3YearPlanLBCPresentationFall2019_9-12-19.pdf

September 20, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: District School Superintendents

FROM: Joy Frank
Joe McGehee, Legislative Intern

RE: Legislative Update – Interim Committee Meetings

General Information

The House and Senate held the first set of committee meetings of the 2020 Legislative session this week. For the most part, presentations were made from various agency personnel on the implementation of legislation from the 2019 Legislative Session. The Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee did not meet.

Senate Infrastructure and Security Committee

This is a new committee chaired by Senator Lee in response to the recent mass attacks and targeted violence. As you have read in the press, Chair Lee has suggested that if something is to be done, an enhancement of background check system could be in order. Presentations on statistics were made by two professors from Florida State University. Only two percent of mass shootings involved schools. Most involve families. Richard Swearingen, Commissioner of FL Dept. of Law Enforcement spoke on prevention for mass shooting tragedies and called for more research funding to explore the mentality of mass shootings, behavioral threat assessment management. Threat assessments should not exist in schools only.

Senate Education Committee

The committee had an update from DOE representatives (Jacob Oliva and Damien Kelly) on mental health requirements and safe schools. Basically, the presentation was a broad overview. The Guardian Program was discussed at length. However, for safety purposes, the location of specific guardians was not identified.

Senate Appropriations Committee/House Appropriations Committee

Amy Baker with the Office of Economic and Demographic Research presented at both committees. The presentation is attached for your review.

House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

The Committee had a budget presentation by DOE representatives of the SBE Legislative Budget Request.

House Education Committee

Shan Goff, the new director of the Office of Early Learning, provided an update on school readiness and the VPK Program. In addition, a panel composed of Early Learning Coalition Directors and providers responded to questions about the program. Issues of attracting and retaining qualified staff, reimbursement rates, professional development needs, accountability standards, closing poor performing programs, etc. were highlighted. Early learning will be an issue during this upcoming session.

House PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

The Committee had a presentation from George Tomy, Executive Director of FHSAA and Doug Dodd, a School Board member from Citrus County. The presentation and ensuing discussion focused on health concerns for student athletes including concussions and heat related injuries.

The next set of interim committee meetings is the week of October 14th.