

Byers, Minton and Associates

This Week at the Statehouse

July 14, 2017

Around the Square

Budget Update

With the House overriding 11 of Governor John Kasich's vetoes last week, the budget process now goes back to the Senate to decide whether or not to concur with the overrides. Session was cancelled for this past week and is currently scheduled for next week. If session is held, the Senate will make their final decisions on the 2018-19 biennial budget.

Supreme Court Rules ODE Can Collect from ECOT

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday the Ohio Department of Education can begin collecting on the \$60 million owed from the Education Classroom of Tomorrow, despite pending court cases disputing an overpayment. Starting Thursday, ODE has agreed to reduce monthly payments from \$8.1 million to \$2.5 million. In total, it will take the Department 24 months to collect on its overpayments. ECOT still has pending before the Supreme Court an argument against ODE's attendance audit process.

ESSA Plan Advances

The State Board of Education on Tuesday discussed several amendments for the state's plan to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which is set to be formally submitted in September. Over 20 amendments were discussed ranging from topics such as report card indicators to student support. One of the admitted amendments allows ODE to make non-substantive changes to the plan should the need arise. The plan was unanimously endorsed after two hours of discussion, and now heads to Governor Kasich. Kasich has 30 days to review and sign before it is formally sent to the U.S. Department of Education.

Political News and Notes

Mary Taylor Announces for Governor

Lieutenant Governor Mary Taylor officially announced her candidacy for Governor at the end of last week in a speech at the City Club of Cleveland. If elected, Taylor said she will focus on jobs, education and the opiate epidemic. The current candidates for the Republican nomination include Attorney General Mike DeWine, Secretary of State Jon Husted, and U.S. Rep. Jim Renacci. Governor John Kasich announced he will be supporting Lt. Gov Taylor in the race.

Students Improve on Tests

Preliminary test results released on Monday show students performed better on most of their state tests this spring than in previous years. Superintendent DeMaria shared the results from the 26 tests administered with the State Board of Education. Third grade English Language Arts exam was among one of the most improved with over 9% additional students scoring proficient or higher.

We encourage you to follow BMA (@ByersMinton) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for continued updates throughout the week.