



National Title I Association

a National Association of State Title I Directors

The **Government Relations Committee** meeting was held via conference call on **January 10, 2017** at 1:00PM EST, 12:00PM CST, 11:00AM MST, 10:00AM PST.

ATTENDING

Committee Members

Gaye Leia King (BIE); Amelia Hodges (DE); Bernell Cook (LA); Pat Kaiser (MO)
Melinda Bessner (OR); Theresa Richards (OR); Roy Stehle (SC); Jewell Stanley (SC);
Gayle Pauley (WA)

A+ Events Staff

Bob Harmon (NASTID CEO—WA)
Jeri Erickson (NASTID Members Services Director—CA)

Contractor

Julia Martin (Brustein & Manasevit—DC)
Marcus Cheeks A+ Events

Meeting Agenda:

1. Government Relations Report (Julia Martin, Brustein & Manasevit)

- I. Presidential transition
 - a. Continuing to monitor appointments
 - i. Education → Betsy DeVos
 1. Priorities likely to trend with PEOTUS, but not clear statements yet
 1. Flexibility for charters
 2. Push for funding flexibility (LEA funding pilot, legislative changes?)
 2. Hearing on DeVos' nomination 1/11
 1. Committee has said they will not vote until ethics and financial paperwork has been filed
 2. Likely issues:
 1. Campaign fines
 2. "soft money" donations
 3. Support for FIRE and similar organizations
 - ii. Agriculture → TBD
 1. Broad range of potential nominees
 1. Sid Miller (TX agriculture Secretary): known for reversal of an eleven-year ban instituted in 2004 on soft drinks and fried foods in public schools. Said that local school districts should have the freedom to make decisions regarding food choices for their schools.
 2. Susan Combs (Miller's predecessor): implemented ban on fried foods/soft drinks. Supporter of school nutrition programs
 3. Sonny Perdue (former GA governor): focus on agri-business, immigration policy and related impact on crops
 1. Potential front-runner at this point?

2. Conflict is between agri-business and others; nutrition not really playing a role here
- II. Congressional updates
- a. 115th Congress began January 3rd.
 - i. Leadership
 1. Paul Ryan reelected House Speaker
 2. Nancy Pelosi reelected minority leader
 3. Mitch McConnell is Senate Majority Leader
 4. Chuck Schumer is Senate Minority Leader
 - ii. Committee Assignments
 - iii. Rules changes
 1. Fining members if they violate the rule against photography or streaming on the floor
 2. Allow House Committees deposition authority for staff meetings, not solely for meetings with members of Congress
 3. Changes to Committee jurisdictions regarding Medicare and Social Security, and changes to spending rules surrounding the Affordable Care Act to expedite repeal
 4. Reinstates a rule allowing members to propose salary cuts and firing of specific federal employees (known as the "Holman Rule")
 5. Considers Members' office records to be "personal property" and not discoverable in a lawsuit or subject to open records laws
 6. Considered – and rejected – changes to the independent Office of Congressional Ethics.
 - b. Appropriations
 - i. New CR goes to end of April
 1. Can do appropriations/CR before that
 2. Limited possibility for changes in remainder of fiscal year
 1. BUT if there are changes, won't know about it until late spring
 - ii. Now discussion moves to FY 2018
 1. Changes in way sequestration works to focus additional cuts on non-defense discretionary?
 2. PEOTUS suggests he may not submit a budget proposal in January/February as per tradition
 3. Budget process begins in March/April
 1. "big picture" changes to 10-year budget directives
 2. Changes to sequestration, overall percentage cuts could come here
 4. Appropriations work begins in May/June
 1. Individual program level changes
 2. Formula funding (Title I, IDEA) likely protected here
 - c. Setting the stage for the new Congress
 - i. Expanding ability to rescind regulations through Congressional Review Act
 1. Proposed Midnight Regulations Relief Act legislation would allow "bundling" of regulations for disapproval
 - ii. New discussion on the REINS Act
 1. Would allow one-house veto of final regulations
 2. Potentially unconstitutional
 3. Likelihood of exercise limited



- III. Administration Updates
 - a. Still waiting on final supplement, not supplant regulations
 - b. New [guidance on charter schools](#)
 - i. Requirements for students with disabilities under IDEA
 - 1. Based on Sec. 504, FAPE obligations
 - 2. Defines terms and provides situational examples
 - 3. Includes information on identification of students, dispute resolution, etc..
 - 4. Clarifies that students have same rights as at traditional public schools
 - ii. Requirements related to seclusion and restraint
 - 1. Same rights as traditional public schools
 - 2. Restates requirements related to FAPE
 - iii. Unlikely to survive new administration (or at the very least, to be enforced)
 - c. New non-binding, non-regulatory guidance on
 - i. [setting goals in ESSA Consolidated State Plans](#)
 - 1. Guide for both States and peer reviewers
 - ii. [developing state and local report cards](#)
 - iii. [calculating graduation rates](#)
 - iv. ED also planning to host a weekly webinar series on this

2. Progress on state plan work considering the uncertainty of the new administration

Items discussed:

- By January 11, 2017, notify ED when your state plan will be submitted.
- Align state plans with new guidance for template development.

3. Other

The February committee meeting will be in person during the annual conference in Long Beach. The meeting date and time to be determined by the committee members at the conference. Meeting rooms will be available for committees to meet.

Notes from the November 8, 2016 meeting are [available here](#).

Next conference call meeting is scheduled for **March 14, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT**, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.