

From: Jan Jones janjones38@bellsouth.net
Subject: RE: LEA Primer
Date: February 14, 2008 at 9:00 PM
To: Jeanne Allen jra@edreform.com



Thanks. Having a cool reception in the Senate. I'm keeping up a strong front. Talking the talk. Keeping the pressure on the Lt. Governor. But when I count noses, I come up with few warm noses. The Senate leadership will have to swoop down and give a message to get it out of committee without it being castrated.

The elected state school superintendent endorsed it. She's not going to hold a press conference or anything, but I was able to tell the senators she was behind it. The chair of the charter committee (one of the three committees) for the state school board spoke in favor of the bill. A majority of the state board supports it. Again, they're not holding press conferences, but no opposition from the majority. The Governor is hedging, but not opposing it. I think he'll be ok if I toss him something he wants in the budget (bleh). Problem is that no one else wants the program he wants.

It's the Lt. Governor that does not support the bill (as is). And he sent a message to me to quit saying he doesn't. Said to tell me he supports it. I told his intermediary that if, by support, he means going through the school board first, he does not support it. He supports school board control.

Politics are ugly. I'm hopeful that we'll end up with something good. Jim Horne did a good job today. The senate is strange though and they had to adjourn after a short while because they lost a quorum. Most did not get to hear Jim. He's the most credible advocate. Tony Roberts and Ben Vinson are doing a great job. You'd be proud of them. We're working the votes. And keeping the pressure up.

You were right to keep the pressure up. It's the only way you get leverage. Yesterday, I had to go to bed early because it looked bad. Today, better (behind the scenes info). Tomorrow, who knows? But my best guess is that we'll get a bill and it will be 90 percent of what we want but will be obscured somewhat to the casual observer. That's just my guess. It could blow up. Hope not. This is the strangest session in recent history. Lots of other things swirling around that aren't good and unrelated to education. A good friend that knows told me he wouldn't be surprised if nothing significant passed.

Jan Jones

From: Jeanne Allen [mailto:jra@edreform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2008 4:01 PM
To: Jan Jones
Subject: Fwd: LEA Primer

Hi, Jan. Thought you'd like to review this latest paper, which is a result of this issue coming up in numerous states. Hope all is well. Very exciting stuff down there.

Best, Jeanne

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