

March 21, 2017

WJCCTF Community Meeting

6:20pm – Call to order

Senator Gerald Neal discussed the current KY legislative short session, focusing on two bills, House Bill 151 and 520.

- Republican dominated legislature, no possibility for Democrats to affect legislation
 - o Last state in the South to have a democratic majority in at least one of the legislative branches
 - o Many bills up for vote. Unusually high.
- Urban vs. Rural dynamic is playing out
 - o Gas/coal issue – natural gas cheaper than coal, this is creating economic and social issues for some rural areas
- House Bill 151 – Neighborhood School bill
 - o Dead for this session, but will come back up with hearings
 - o Most parents and professionals opposed to this bill
- House Bill 520 – Charter School Bill
 - o Passed
 - o Reviews on Charter Schools are mixed
 - A good chunk fail
 - Some no better than traditional public schools
 - o Money to fund charter schools will come from state, with public school requirements waived for charter schools.
 - Unfortunately this can get difficult to shut charter schools down if underperforming
 - Currently they are trying to get regulations in place to ensure performance and simplify ability to reprimand low performing schools
- CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN

Announcement made by Rachael Hamilton from APCD on federal resolution 806 – the new standard for ozone would be put off until 2025