

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE ALLIANCE FOR  
HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION**

January 28, 2015

Chairperson Paul Imhoff called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on January 28, 2015 in the BASA Conference Room, 8050 N. High St., Route 23, Columbus, OH 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Mike Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Mike Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Scot Prebles	Brecksville Broadview Heights Schools
Tom Henderson	Centerville City Schools
Bob Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
Brian Poe ( <i>via proxy</i> )	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Steve Kramer	Madeira City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Wade Lucas	Olentangy Local Schools
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Adrienne James	Sycamore Community Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Brad Neavin	Vandalia-Butler City Schools

Also in attendance were Executive Director Tony Podojil, Alliance Consultant Jim Betts and Executive Assistant Barbara Adams.

**MINUTES**

Wade Lucas moved and Mike Sheppard seconded the approval of the minutes for the September 23, 2014 and October 22, 2014 meetings. The motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Reports.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity to date and indicated that the budget was on target as we moved into the second half of the fiscal year. He pointed out the final cost associated with the annual conference was approximately \$3,000.00, once receipts had been deducted.

Steve Kramer moved and Mike Sheppard seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for November and December 2014. The motion passed.

**B. 2015-16 Budget – Initial Planning.**

With the second half of the fiscal year beginning, Tony indicated it was time to begin to formulate plans for the 2015/16 budget. A draft budget will be developed for presentation to members for the March meeting.

**C. Executive Session – Executive Director and Betts and Associates Contracts.**

At approximately 9:45, Bob Scott moved and Mike Johnson seconded a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the contracts of the Executive Director and Betts and Associates, Inc.

The Executive Committee reconvened the meeting at 10:30.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Current Legislative Concerns.**

1. **Biennium Budget** – Tony and Jim reviewed the projected timeline for the release of the Governor's biennium budget, as well as the House legislative schedule projecting when the bill would be in committee and when it would be scheduled for a final House vote. Once the budget is made public, we will have an opportunity to review the areas about which we have concerns, including the establishment of a minimum funding level, the maintenance of guarantees and the future of TPP reimbursements.

**B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.**

1. **State Superintendent** – Several meetings have been held with Superintendent Ross and members of his staff, attended by Tony, Jim and Paul, regarding the recently released testing study as well as a discussion of the suggested deregulation recommendations that we submitted in the fall. Those meetings have been both informative and productive and have provided an avenue for a candid discussion of our needs and input to the Department.

We are seeking legislative relief regarding the assignment of staff and the use of instructional time, and a future meeting to discuss the College Credit Plus program with representatives from the Board of Regents.

2. **ODE Staff** – Tony indicated that he has had ongoing discussions with the department on what constitutes a high quality school system for purposes of the deregulation conversation. This has proven to be a difficult endeavor for both the department and the Alliance. We are working on several concepts tied to performance measures currently on the State Report Card as an initial starting point.

3. **Senate President** – As we had heard when we met with him in the fall, Senate President Faber continues to try to find ways to provide assistance to school districts by providing regulatory relief. This goal was restated in his remarks to the full Senate when it reconvened in January. We anticipate something to be introduced on this subject within the next few weeks.

4. **House Education Chair** – A meeting was held with Representative Bill Hayes (R-Harrison Township) over winter break prior to his appointment as Chair of the House Education Committee. He asked, in anticipation of his appointment, that we put together a superintendent advisory group that could meet with him regularly as he assumed his new duties. We are in the process of finalizing that group which will include both Alliance and non-Alliance members. The first meeting is scheduled for February 3rd in the Riffe Center.

5. **State Board of Education President** – Tony indicated that a meeting was held with Tom Gunlock to provide him some background information on the Quality Profile. While he was receptive to the information, he appeared more concerned about how this information is quantified and compared to a set standard and other districts. Based upon his response, there appears to be nothing to be gained by discussing this further with the State Board at this time. The Executive Committee agreed.

**C. Membership.**

Tony gave an update on current membership totals. As of this meeting, we have 64 members, which include 63 paid, along with Upper Arlington as the fiscal agent. Two districts failed to renew this year: Kirtland and Westerville. We have three possibilities in terms of new members for next year that include Green, Princeton and Medina.

**D. Quality Profile – Regional Meeting Feedback.**

The next round of regional meetings is tentatively scheduled for the end of February/early March. Once the budget is released, we will have a better idea of when best to schedule those meeting dates since their primary focus will be to share information on the budget and to identify areas in which we will need local support.

**E. Accountability Task Group – Meeting Summary.**

Jim provided the committee with an update of the work of the Accountability Task Group that met this month. One of the areas that the committee has continued to debate is how best to define what constitutes a high quality district. The discussion centered on how to use the state reporting system to determine which districts would qualify.

### **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the minutes of the Legislative Committee held on January 14th was distributed and reviewed. The major focus of that meeting was getting ready for the release of the biennium budget in February and what legislative initiatives to anticipate as the General Assembly reconvenes.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 11th.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP**

Joe Regano provided the committee with a review of the Accountability Task Force meeting that was held on January 21st. The highlights of that meeting included a lengthy discussion of the testing report recently released by ODE and the potential impacts that report may have on districts. In addition, the group discussed in detail what changes they would like to see in the Resident Educator program. The consensus was that reducing the program from four to two years was a step in the right direction.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18th.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. OSBA Conference / Alliance Annual Meeting.**

Based upon the feedback received from members following the November annual meeting, it was determined that we would switch back to our normal Monday luncheon for this November. We can survey members again following that meeting to determine if a change back to the Tuesday morning format is warranted.

**B. The Ohio Standard Coalition Meeting.**

Tony informed the committee that we are still meeting with the Ohio Standard Coalition, whose primary focus continues to be the preservation of the common core standards. The next meeting for that group was scheduled for that afternoon. Both Tony and Jim planned to attend.

**C. Graduation Requirements.**

At a prior meeting, Tom Hosler had raised the issue of graduation rates and special needs students. After some research and communication with the Federal Department of Education, it appears that there are more options that the state could pursue that would rectify the current graduation counting problem. This issue will move to the accountability committee for their consideration. A further discussion with ODE is probably warranted here.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Summit – Suggested Topics.**

The committee suggested two topics for an upcoming Summit; collective bargaining issues and communication strategies regarding levy requests. It was suggested that one topic be covered in the morning and another in the afternoon so that districts could make a choice of those they wished to attend. A date sometime in May is preferable due to the timeliness of these topics.

**B. Ohio Education Policy Institute Tax Study.**

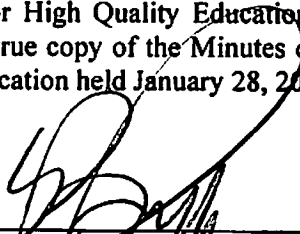
Paul distributed an article from the *Columbus Dispatch* that highlighted an OEPI (formerly the Education Tax Policy Institute or ETPI) study on the tax levels of districts and the variation in local district capacity. The article had drawn substantial concern from members in the Columbus area. After speaking with representatives of BASA, we were informed that OEPI, in an effort to balance the article, will revisit the Alliance study that compares state monies received by school districts with personal income taxes paid by residents. Hopefully, that will be reported with the same detail as the recently released study.


**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

**CERTIFICATE**

We, Paul Imhoff, Chairperson of the Alliance for High Quality Education, and Tony Podojil, Executive Director, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education held January 28, 2015.

  
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Paul Imhoff, Chair

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director