

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

October 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 October 28, 2015 in the BASA Conference Room, 8050 N. High St., Route 23, and Columbus, OH 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Mike Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Michael Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Scot Prebles	Brecksville Broadview Heights Schools
Tom Henderson	Centerville City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village Schools
Chad Hilliker	Loveland City Schools
Steve Kramer	Madeira City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City 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, Executive Assistant Barbara Adams and invited guest, Trent Bowers, Superintendent of Worthington City Schools.

**Executive Committee Appointment**

Paul Imhoff called for a motion to add Superintendent Trent Bowers of Worthington City Schools as a Central Region member of the Executive Committee. Joe Regano moved and Bob Scott seconded the appointment of Mr. Bowers to the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session**

Paul Imhoff called for a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following topics: lobbying services and the performance evaluation process. Joe Regano moved and Bob Scott seconded a motion authorizing the Executive Committee to move into to Executive Session for the purposes described above. The motion passed.

The committee entered into Executive Session at 9:35 and returned at 10:00.

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the September meeting were not available for consideration. The minutes will be considered for approval during the January meeting.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity for September. He reviewed our current revenue position based on the new membership totals and our current expenditure projections. At the end of the first quarter, the expenditure portion of the budget is in line with projections.

Steve Kramer moved and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for September, 2015. The motion passed.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **TPP Governor's Veto / Legislative Response** – Jim and Tony provided the committee with an overview of the recently passed SB 208 that changed several of the provisions impacted by the Governor's veto.

On the positive side, restoration of the TPP supplement payment in FY2017 so total TPP reimbursements equaled at least a 96% of the FY2015 TPP funding level offset the impact of the Governor's veto that had totally eliminated the supplement payment. In addition, the bill adopted a proposal offered by Representative Cupp that changes the run out provisions from 2% of total resources to the revenue generated from 5/8<sup>th</sup> of a mill of property taxation. This reduces the run out amounts and extends the number of years districts would receive funds.

On the negative side, the legislation kept in place the cumulative impact of the 2% reductions district's would have experienced in 2016 and 2017 beginning in 2018. will show districts at TPP levels originally proposed. This elimination of the supplement, coupled with the 5/8 mill annual reduction, will effectively move the so-called "cliff" from FY2017 to FY2018. Work is already underway to institute another change that would apply the FY2018 reduction to the FY2017 total reimbursement including the supplement.

In light of the above, the committee began a discussion regarding what we should be doing now, what changes need to be made and when would be the best time to approach the legislature. It appears, based on the latest efforts by both the House and the Senate, the legislators believe they have addressed the issue and are not interested in renewing conversations at this time. This will certainly make future discussions difficult. Jim suggested that the best place to start a discussion would be with the Governor's office to see if we can get them on board with a plan on addressing the fiscal cliff in 2018.

In light of the above, Jim, Tony and Paul will try to arrange a meeting with the Governor's budget director in the near future. Also, a meeting of the education groups, CFFO and the Alliance will be reconvened to discuss the impact of the legislation and what can be done going forward.

2. **HB 2 – Charter School Reforms** – Jim and Tony reviewed the final provisions incorporated in HB 2, which has now been passed and will in all likelihood be signed into law by the Governor shortly. While the provisions contained in HB2 certainly are much more rigorous in terms of accountability and transparency, the committee as a whole still questions the vigor with which ODE will move forward in making sure the provisions are established and enforced.

The committee discussed a recent article that appeared in the *Columbus Dispatch* regarding a study done by Stanford University on the lack of student performance at electronic schools, both nationwide and in Ohio. The article reinforces the need for HB 2 and the new accountability and transparency requirements.

3. **SB 3 – School Deregulation** – While it appeared that we had a good chance to see SB 3 move forward with Rep. Hayes as the Chair of the House Education Committee, his stepping down from the chairmanship puts this possibility in jeopardy. The items we have been working on: the state testing program and “opt-outs”, collective bargaining, College Credit Plus and funding charter schools may be temporarily placed on hold until we can determine if the new chair (Brenner) is willing to take on these issues.

4. **State Testing Program** – Jim Betts and Joe Regano updated the committee on the work of the Accountability Committee. There was a lengthy discussion on the impacts of the “opt-outs” and the impact on district report cards – in particular their performance index score. Having the state disregard those students who choose not to take the tests would provide a more accurate reflection of actual student performance.

**B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.**

1. **House Education Committee** – The Education Advisory Committee, put together by the Alliance, continues to meet on a regular basis with Rep. Bill Hayes (R-Harrison Township), the Chair of the House Education Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for August 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in Columbus.

**C. Membership.**

1. **New Members** – Tony reported that Princeton and Strongsville would be joining the Alliance. Rossford and Bowling Green still remain on our radar in terms of potential new members. Based on the two additional members indicated above, membership now stands at 72 total, with 71 paid members.

**D. Communications.**

Member advisories were sent out in October regarding the SB 208 and the legislative discussions concerning TPP.

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

Jim Betts provided a summary of the deliberations of the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The major focus of that meeting was the impact of the Governor’s veto on TPP, the state testing system, charter school reform and College Credit Plus.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 13th.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP**

Joe Regano and Jim Betts reported on the October conference call of the task group which continues to search for solutions for the “opt-out” issue that has impacted many Alliance districts. The group is hoping to help craft a ‘hold harmless’ solution that will disregard students that did not participate in school year 2014-15, but has received push-back from ODE, which fears reprisals from USDE, and some legislators who believe a ‘hold harmless’ provision would cause educators to encourage poor performers not to participate in state mandated assessments.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Meeting – Proposed Agenda.**

Barb Adams reported that attendance for the event will set a record with approximately 250 reservations already received, and a few regularly attending districts still to register.

Jim reported that Rep. Bill Hayes has resigned his Education Committee chairmanship, and has been replaced by Rep. Andrew Brenner. Since Chairman Hayes had been scheduled to participate in the panel discussion at the Annual Meeting, at least in part because of that chairmanship, he has been replaced by Sen. Randy Gardner, longtime member of Education and Finance Committees in both the House and the Senate.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

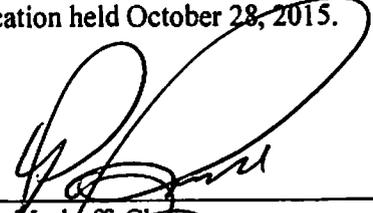
There was no new business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at a place yet to be determined.

#### **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 October 28, 2015.



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Paul Imhoff, Chair



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Tony Podojil, Executive Director