

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

February 25, 2015

Vice-Chairperson Tom Hosler called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:35 a.m. on February 25, 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 (<i>via proxy</i>)	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
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Wade Lucas	Olentangy Local Schools
Michael Shoaf (<i>via proxy</i>)	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Adrienne James (<i>via proxy</i>)	Sycamore Community Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff (<i>via proxy</i>)	Upper Arlington City Schools

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

MINUTES

Scott Prebles moved and Robert Scott seconded the approval of the minutes for the meeting held on January 28, 2015. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity through January and indicated that the budget continues to remain on target as we move through the second half of the fiscal year.

Joe Regano moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for January, 2015. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **Biennium Budget** – Jim Betts provided an overview of the Governor's biennium budget proposal and the reaction from members of the House and Senate regarding the proposed foundation formula's impact on districts. With over 300 districts facing a reduction in state funding, the impact is being felt across the state, including all levels and types of districts. It appears that the new capacity factor is having a significant impact on the new calculations, along with the phase down of guarantees (transitional aid) and tangible personal property reimbursements.

Jim pointed out that the leadership in the House, several of which are located in rural, low wealth areas, is impacted negatively by the proposal. Based on that, as well as discussions with other legislative members, we anticipate that the House will make major changes to the Governor's proposal with the probability of additional changes in the Senate.

2. **Foundation Formula** – The committee spent a considerable amount of time talking about the key areas in which changes to the formula would be of benefit to members. Those included the establishment of a minimum funding level equal to the amount of funding granted to parochial/private schools, the retention of guarantees and the TPP reimbursement, adding a means test to the College Credit Plus program, and adding a tax effort calculation to the capacity calculations.

3. **SB 3 – Deregulation** – Several members of the Executive Committee are scheduled to appear before the Senate Education Committee to offer proponent testimony for SB 3. Jim indicated that this bill should not only make it out of committee, but will probably become a priority because the Senate President is a co-sponsor. Since many of the items, with the exception of the testing items and the items affecting ESC's, are similar to proposals we offered to Senator Faber in December, the sponsors have asked us to provide proponent testimony.

One item that appeared initially when SB 3 was introduced, the provision for school districts to opt out of ESC membership, did not appear in the final language. The committee discussed whether or not to take a position on the proposal and it was agreed that this was best left to OESCA to respond. Once that occurs, the committee can make a final determination about supporting OESCA's position. This is similar to what we did during last year's budget deliberations when there was a move to reduce ESC funding levels.

4. **PARCC** – With the start of PARCC testing statewide, committee members had some first-hand observations on what was occurring at the district level, including the impact of students choosing to opt out, the technological issues associated with administering the test, and the possible impact on school and teacher accountability based on the number of students taking the test.

Jim and Tony updated the committee on the meetings currently being held with Rep. Hayes that have focused on a variety of topics, but particularly testing and the PARCC program. This group will provide a great opportunity to speak directly to the House Education Chair as we offer information and recommendations going forward.

B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **House Education Chair** – The Alliance has organized a group of twelve superintendents, half of whom are Alliance members, to meet on a regular basis with Rep. Bill Hayes (R-Harrison Township), Chair of the House Education Committee. We have met twice and the topics under consideration include, in no particular order: College Credit Plus, teacher performance, licensure and contractual levels for teachers, and the state testing program. The committee has been asked to testify on HB 74, to be introduced in early March. This bill attempts to address several of the issues associated with the PARCC and the issues that have resulted. We will provide updates on the progress the group makes promoting Alliance initiatives.

C. Regional Meeting Dates.

Regional meetings are scheduled for the first two weeks of March. The agenda will focus on the budget, statewide testing and the next release of the "Quality Profile."

D. Communications.

Communications to members have focused on the budget proposal release and our upcoming regional meeting schedule.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the minutes of the Legislative Committee, held on February 11th, 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 March 11th.

ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

Joe Regano provided the committee with a review of the Accountability Task Group meeting that was held on February 18th. 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 March 18th.

OLD 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. Mid May seems to be the best time, although there is some concern that, with all that is going on with the budget, attendance might be low for these events. We will send out a Member Advisory to determine what level of interest there is and then plan accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Memberships Services.

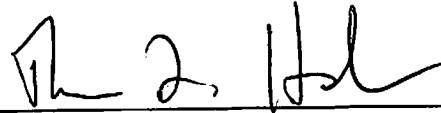
Tony offered the suggestion that we consider developing an in-service program for new members to provide them with an understanding of the goals of the Alliance and to assist them with the skills necessary when interacting with state legislators. Tom Hosler offered the suggestion that the in-service should include a trip to the Statehouse and some special information about where to park, office and hearing room locations, how to interact with legislators, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

CERTIFICATE

We, Tom Hosler, Vice 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 February 25, 2015.



Tom Hosler, Vice Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director