

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

February 22, 2017

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 February 22, 2017 in the BASA Large Group Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Bob Scott	Avon Local Schools
Michael Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Michael Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Brian Poe (<i>via proxy</i>)	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills City Schools
Jeff Brown (<i>via proxy</i>)	Granville City Schools
Chad Hilliker (<i>via proxy</i>)	Loveland City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Brad Neavin	Vandalia-Butler City Schools
Trent Bowers (<i>via proxy</i>)	Worthington City Schools

Also, in attendance were Alliance Executive Director Anthony Podojil, Legislative Consultants Jim Betts and Michael Dovilla and Executive Assistant Barbara Adams.

MINUTES

The minutes for the January 25, 2017 meeting were not available for consideration and will be reviewed during the March meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for February. Other than the expenses associated with the 2016 Annual Meeting, we remain on target in terms of overall budget projections. He pointed out one additional BASA expense for our yearly copy billing.

Joe Regano moved and Scott Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of February 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Capital Conference.

Tony Podojil provided a detailed overview of the costs associated with November's annual meeting and luncheon. Except for the costs associated with the 25th Anniversary recognition, which were one-time expenses, the price charged attendees at the luncheon covered approximately two-thirds of the total cost. The committee discussed the possibility of increasing the price to participants for the luncheon, but ultimately agreed to keep the price the same unless there is a significant rise in fees. It appears that the

current pricing structure is encouraging member participation and we do not want to do anything to discourage that. The committee directed Tony to continue to provide the same supplement to the budget as previously, in order to cover the total cost of the program.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **Biennium Budget Planning** - Jim Betts and Mike Dovilla provided the committee with their perspective of how the relationship between the Governor and the General Assembly could impact the budget process. With this being this Governor's final budget, it appears that the General Assembly is poised to be more assertive during this year's deliberations. What that will mean for the education budget remains to be seen.

The Governor's funding proposal, as presented by the budget director, retains most of the provisions of the formula incorporated in the last budget. The overall increases in education funding are small (1% per year) and several provisions were included that could reduce district funding levels such as the reductions in transportation guarantees, possible reductions in guarantee payments because of ADM losses, and reduced TPP reimbursements.

The Administration has repeatedly pointed out that current revenue levels are not meeting expectations and that we may be heading into a recessionary period. That, coupled with the loss of Medicaid tax revenue, has resulted in a scaled back and conservative budget proposal. This will make our efforts to maintain current TPP reimbursement levels, to institute fair funding and to avoid reductions in guarantee amounts, even more difficult.

One of the issues discussed during the legislative committee meeting centered on the relevance of the per pupil base funding amount for the funding formula. That number has not been reevaluated since 2002, and the adjustments made since that time have not kept up with inflation. Because the base number is the driving force behind the formula, using a figure that is less than accurate creates false assumptions, beginning with the premise that districts are on a guarantee solely because of the loss of enrollment.

Committee members recognized that increasing the base funding level will not only increase the total funding for schools, but will also cause additional funds to be directed to charter schools, creating the potential for districts to lose more money to charters than what they would gain by an increase in the formula. The committee recommended that this concept be presented to members at the upcoming regional meetings for their input before taking any action to encourage a new study.

2. **Chronic Absenteeism** – Jim indicated that work still needs to be done to refine the definition of chronic absenteeism as it applies to both HB 410 and the non-academic indicator being considered as part of ESSA and the State Report Card. This will be a topic of discussion at our next Education Advisory Committee meeting with Chairperson Brenner. At the last meeting, he acknowledged that this was an issue that needed to be addressed and has asked the committee for feedback. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for March 6th.

3. **Value-Added** – The committee was informed of our recent discussions with the Urban 8 as it pertains to value-added. The two organizations are in agreement that this measure either needs to revert to a single measure of growth for each student as measured from one point of time to another, or, at the minimum, the state should report both the individual student growth number, as well as how that student is performing compared to his/her peer group. During a recent meeting, representatives of ODE, indicated that they were working on a similar idea as directed by the state superintendent. We will continue to discuss this with the department as well as with Chairperson Brenner in the advisory committee.

4. **College Credit Plus** – Jim shared that concerns about districts being responsible for books, fees and supplies associated with CCP will be discussed when the advisory committee meets next.

Chairperson Brenner has expressed support for relief in this area and we hope to have language addressing this issue included in the budget bill.

B. ODE / State Board of Education.

1. **Graduation Requirements** – As had been indicated in December, a task force has been reviewing the issues associated with the change in graduation requirements. Jim Fritz, superintendent at Anthony Wayne, is the sole Alliance member on the task force. We recently forwarded an email from Jim to members asking for input. We will be monitoring the progress of this group as they put together their recommendations for presentation to the State Board in April.

2. **ESSA** – Jim reviewed the summary from the recent Accountability committee meeting and pointed out the two basic principles that the committee adopted to address this issue. Jim and Tony met with John Richard and Colleen Grady of ODE to share those principles and to get clarification on a statement made by Superintendent DeMaria to the Joint Education Oversight Committee. During his presentation, the Superintendent indicated that only the federal mandates were requirements of the application and those areas beyond the mandates included in the application could be modified and changed by the state at its discretion without federal oversight. Richard and Grady confirmed the superintendent's interpretation, but we need further federal clarification. We are working with the Urban 8 to find the sections of the federal code that will confirm this interpretation. If this is the case, it will alleviate many, but not all, of the concerns associated with ESSA.

C. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **Education Advisory Committee Meeting** – The Education Advisory Committee will meet with House Education Chairperson Brenner on Monday, March 6th at 10:00 at our offices.

D. Membership.

1. **Regional Meeting Agenda** – The meetings being held over the next several weeks will focus on getting feedback on the biennium budget and the ESSA application process.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A written summary of the meeting held on February 15th and used as a reference for the discussion on the legislative topics discussed by the committee, will be included in the minutes of the meeting as an addenda item.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th.

ESSA / ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

A written summary of the positions regarding ESSA that were adopted during the meeting held on February 15th and used as a reference for the committee's discussion on the legislative topics discussed by the committee, will be included in the minutes of the meeting as an addenda item.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8th.

OLD BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

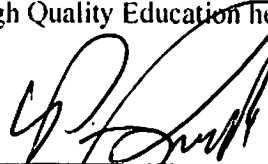
No items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

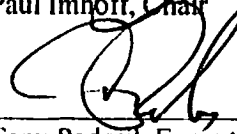
Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

CERTIFICATE

I, Paul Imhoff, Chair, 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 22, 2017.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director