

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

March 25, 2015

Chairperson Paul Imhoff called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 10:00 a.m. on March 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	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	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Matt Miller	Mentor City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Thomas Tucker	Worthington 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

Scot Prebles moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the meeting minutes for the February 25, 2015 meeting. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

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

Todd Hoadley moved and Mike Johnson seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for February 2015. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **Biennium Budget** – Jim Betts provided a status report on deliberations currently being held in the House regarding the Governor's biennium budget. At this point, we are anticipating that the House will be offering its substitute budget bill when it returns from break the week of April 13th. That should include a response to the school funding formula proposed by the Governor.

Jim also pointed out that, in addition to the House's aversion to the tax changes and funding models in the Governor's proposal, there also seems to be a lack of agreement between the leadership of the Senate and House. It is very important that we get as many of the issues as possible addressed in the House rather than having to get them incorporated in the Senate version and run the risk of losing them when the bill goes to conference committee.

Jim and Tony indicated they would be sending to members a specific set of talking points for use with their House members during this spring break. It is important that members share this information with them, but also that our legislators agree to discuss these positions with those in leadership. Direct contact with the Speaker and the key chairs will be needed in order to build support in the caucus for our proposals. That information will be distributed this week.

Jim indicated that testimony was presented to the House Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education regarding the capacity factor in the Governor's formula, the need for carry-over balances, the impact the current transfer amounts are having on bottom line district funding, and the losses that would result from the TPP cuts proposed in the Governor's budget.

2. **Foundation Formula** – The committee reviewed and reinforced its positions regarding changes to the formula that would benefit members. Those included the establishment of a minimum funding level equal to the amount of funding granted to chartered non-public schools, retention of guarantees and TPP reimbursements, adding a means test to the College Credit Plus program, and adding a tax effort factor to the capacity formula.

3. **SB 3 – Deregulation** – SB 3 has cleared the Senate Education committee and is headed to the Senate floor for a vote. There remains a lack of consensus on which districts should qualify for exemptions; the committee approved provisions that would qualify approximately 125 districts statewide. While some on the committee would like to see these provisions extended to all districts, this bill is a starting point that could be modified in the future.

4. **PARCC** – HB 74 is currently being heard in the House Education committee. In discussions with House members, it appears that there is a lack of support for continuing the PARCC program beyond this year. A concern expressed by members is, if they discard PARCC, what takes its place? The Senate has taken a different approach and has convened a task group to develop a testing solution. The Alliance has three members on that committee: Paul Imhoff (Upper Arlington), John Marchhausen (Hilliard), and April Domine (New Albany).

Paul provided the committee with an overview of the testing group's task and what occurred during the first meeting. The second meeting was scheduled for that evening. The committee agreed that the best course of action is to advise the testing group to be deliberate and patient in their actions and not move too rapidly to a new testing platform. Moving too quickly and in a different direction could make the testing issue even more problematic and contentious.

Joe Regano moved and Robert Scott seconded a motion directing Paul Imhoff to advise Senator Lehner that the Alliance requests the testing group adopt an interim position for the 2015-16 school year and pursue deliberately its pursuit of a new, permanent testing policy effective in the fall of 2016. The motion passed.

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. 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. Superintendents from that committee testified before the House Education

Committee in general support of HB 74, focusing on the state testing program, teacher evaluation and the current provisions of the Resident Educators program.

2. **House Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education** – The Alliance, along with members of CFFO, organized a group of representative school districts that provided testimony supporting retention of FY2015 TPP reimbursements.

C. Membership.

Tony reported that several districts have shown an interest in either joining or rejoining the Alliance for the next school year. Those include Medina, West Geauga, Chardon, Rossford and Green. Follow-up meetings are planned with each of those districts and their superintendents.

D. Regional Meetings.

The regional meetings held in early March drew good attendance and discussions. The agenda focused on the Governor’s budget proposal and the next steps the House may take, the issues associated with the statewide testing program and the next release of the “Quality Profile.”

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the minutes of the Legislative Committee held by conference call on March 11th was distributed and reviewed. The major focus of that meeting was updating the committee on the reaction to the Governor’s budget proposal in the House and what legislative initiatives to anticipate as the General Assembly continues its deliberations.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8th.

ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

Joe Regano provided the committee with a review of the Accountability Task Group meeting that was held by conference call on March 18th. The highlights included a lengthy discussion of the testing report recently released by ODE and the potential impact that report may have on districts. Committee members agreed to invite their curriculum directors to the next meeting so that the committee could begin to develop a position paper regarding what changes need to be made to the state testing system.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Summit – Suggested Topics.

A survey seeking to determine what level of interest exists for programs designed around collective bargaining trends and communication initiatives has been sent to members. We also asked what month would be preferred: May, September or October.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Executive Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 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 March 25, 2015.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director