

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

April 22, 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 April 22, 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
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Adrienne James	Sycamore Community City Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Steve Kramer	Madeira City School District

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

MINUTES

Joe Regano moved and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the minutes for the March 25, 2015 meeting. The motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity for March and indicated that the budget continues to remain on target as we move through the third quarter of the fiscal year with the exception of the Executive Director's expense line. That line item is trending higher because of increased activity related to the Alliance's work with Rep. Hayes' Education subcommittee and increased meeting costs related to Quality Profile discussions throughout the state.

Paul Imhoff indicated that the committee would take up the 2015/16 budget deliberations at the May meeting. He indicated that members should plan on an executive session to discuss several budget items at the beginning of the meeting.

Steve Kramer moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal report for March, 2015. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **HB 64 Biennium Budget** – Tony and Jim provided the committee with an overview of the key components of interest to Alliance members recently incorporated into the House version of the biennium budget. Those components included the creation of a new funding floor equal to 20% of the school foundation formula per pupil amount, a provision to continue guarantees for those districts that are still not on the formula, thereby providing them with the same funding levels in FY2016 and FY2017 as they receive in FY2015 over the biennium, and a section holding districts that still receive TPP payments harmless from any TPP losses over the biennium that are not offset by gains made in the formula.

Paul Imhoff commended the work done by Jim and Tony for their lobbying efforts on all three of the provisions the House inserted into HB 64. Of the three, the minimum funding level and the guarantee provisions are positions that we can support as written in our discussions with Senate members. The TPP provision, because it is only a temporary fix, will still need further clarification and modifications because it could leave those districts heavily dependent on TPP payments facing a devastating reduction in 2018, especially if the Governor's proposal is put into effect.

The committee spent some time discussing the best strategies to preserve the gains made by the House TPP changes while still advocating for a long term hold harmless provision for those districts unable to offset TPP losses with formula gains due to the fact that they are currently on formula guarantees. In addition, for districts at the current cap limits with additional dollars owed them through the formula, removing the cap would allow for more TPP dollars to be offset, thus reducing the time needed to put those districts on the formula and receive those increases.

The committee agreed that a strategy shared with the CFFO group is preferable and suggested that a meeting to discuss next steps in the Senate be arranged shortly.

2. **SB 3 - Deregulation** – With SB 3 currently voted out of committee, we are waiting to see if this bill will be considered as a stand-alone item or will it be added to the Senate budget bill.

3. **HB 74 State Testing Program** – The House Education Committee has recommended HB 74 for passage by the full House and we are waiting to see when the bill will be scheduled for a vote. Once that is passed, it will move over to the Senate Education for their consideration. As was discussed at the last meeting, Senator Lehner has put together a study committee which is on a fast track for making recommendations concerning the state testing program.

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.

Bob Hunt moved and Robert Scott seconded a motion directing Paul Imhoff to advise Senator Lehner of the following Alliance positions in terms of possible changes to the state-testing program:

- All tests for all grades should be administered under the same testing platform and vendor.
- All required state tests should be administered during one testing event per year per student.
- All test content should be closely aligned to state academic standards.
- All tests should satisfy the minimum federal requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act.
- Test time for all grades should be developmentally appropriate for students.

The motion passed unanimously.

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 three times 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 Committee** – The Alliance, along with members of CFFO, organized a group of representative school districts that provided testimony supporting retention of FY2015 TPP reimbursements during the hearings on HB 64.

C. Membership.

Tony reported that several districts continue to show an interest in either joining or rejoining the Alliance for the next school year. Those include Medina, West Geauga, Chardon, Rossford and Green. The Medina Board was considering membership this week during their meeting on 4/19/15. In addition to the above, committee members suggested that Strongsville, Bowling Green, Kings Local and Princeton be added to our potential member list.

D. Quality Profile – Meeting with Cincinnati Public.

Tony Podojil informed the committee that he has a meeting scheduled for 4/24/15 with the Cincinnati Public Schools to review the Quality Profile. The superintendent has expressed an interest in developing a profile for the district. In addition, the ESC in Athens County is also interested in having the Alliance make a presentation to their group in May.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Tony Podojil presented an oral summary of the deliberations of the Legislative Committee that was held on April 21. The major focus of that meeting was updating the committee on the reaction to the House's budget proposal and what legislative initiative to anticipate as the Senate continues its deliberations.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13th.

ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

Joe Regano provided the committee with a review of the Accountability Task Group meeting that was held on April 15th and included several curriculum directors along with committee members. The discussion yielded several recommendations to improve the delivery of the state testing system. Joe shared those recommendations with the committee and, after a lengthy discussion, a resolution (see above) was passed that detailed the Alliance position on this topic. Paul Imhoff agreed to deliver this information to Senator Lehner.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15th.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Summit – Suggested Topics.

A survey seeking to determine the level of interest for programs designed around collective bargaining trends and communication initiatives indicated that the best time to present these topics would be in the fall of this year.

NEW BUSINESS

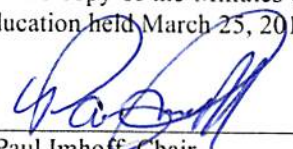
There was no new business to come before the Executive Committee.

ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 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