

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

May 24, 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 May 24, 2017 in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Bob Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Clint Keener	Bay Village City Schools
Michael Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Bob Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools
Brian Poe	Copley/Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley (<i>via proxy</i>)	Dublin City Schools
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville City Schools
Chad Hilliker	Loveland City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg City Schools
Michael Shoaf (<i>via proxy</i>)	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Paul Imhoff requested that the committee move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Jeff Brown moved, and Trent Bowers seconded, that the committee move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 10:12 a.m.

MINUTES

The minutes for the April 26, 2017, meeting were electronically sent to members following that meeting for their review.

Scot Prebles moved and Mike Sheppard seconded the approval of the minutes for April 26, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Reports.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for April. He reviewed those areas in the expenditure section in which we are exceeding budget projections, such as the capital conference costs, the costs incurred with the addition of new office space and expenses incurred for Mike Dovilla's work that were not added initially to the transition cost estimates.

Chad Hilliker moved and Gail Kist-Kline seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of April, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 2017–2018 Budget. The draft that was reviewed during our April meeting was presented for further deliberations. No further discussion was held on the budget proposal.

Clint Keener moved and Tom Hosler seconded the approval of the budget for the 2017–2018 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **Biennium Budget Planning** – Tony Podojil, Jim Betts and Mike Dovilla provided the committee with an update on the current deliberations in the Senate. The Alliance provided testimony before the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Secondary and Primary Education where the organization presented its positions on the budget.

The Alliance has met with several senators in an effort to gauge interest and seek sponsorship for the fair funding amendment. It appears Senator Dolan is willing to be the main sponsor. We also received verbal commitments of support from Senators Eklund, Hite, Lehner, Jordan, Kunze and Terhar. The current amendment delays implementation until FY2020, when 50% of the difference between the districts' per pupil formula funding and a 20% state share will be paid with the full state share due in FY2021, and thereafter.

In addition, Alliance staff has had discussions with the House Budget chair on this approach, and, based on his feedback, believes it will be supported by the House leadership in conference committee, if it gets through the Senate. That leaves the Governor as the final obstacle. It is hoped that delaying implementation until 2020 will be sufficient to cause him to bypass this item as he considers provisions to veto.

The committee then reviewed a document prepared by Howard Fleeter that demonstrated what would occur if there were a reduction in the amount allotted to the cap payments. These alternative funding concepts have begun to surface in the Senate as members seek a way to hold districts harmless without increasing the current amount of funds allocated. In addition to considering lowering the cap, senators have been in serious discussions about maintaining 2017 funding levels and using the increases proposed by the House to help fill the remaining revenue gap.

The report and the discussion about flat funding led to a lengthy funding discussion among members of the committee. Similar to the patterns that exist statewide, the Alliance's membership experiences a wide range of impacts in the House version. The organization has districts below the fair funding level, on guarantees, with capped increases, and with significant losses as a result of the TPP runoff.

These competing priorities have made it difficult for the General Assembly to promote a comprehensive solution without seeking additional funds for the budget. Based on the feedback the Alliance has received, an increase is unlikely, even though it is generally acknowledged the education budget is underfunded. The committee discussed possible ways to proceed if the Senate further reduces the cap, knowing that any corrective action could come at the expense of other Alliance members.

Jim Betts suggested this may be the appropriate time to begin a comprehensive discussion about how the foundation formula is structured, and school funding in general. This could be an area in which the Alliance could take the lead over the next several years as the state transitions to a new governor. The committee agreed with this idea and instructed Tony, Mike, and Jim to discuss next steps and report back at the committee's June meeting.

B. ODE/State Board of Education.

1. **Graduation Requirements** – The next step is to have the recommendations made by the State Board of Education be adopted by the General Assembly. It appears the Senate, through Senator Lehner's proposal, will insert the language into its version of Am. Sub. H.B. 49.

2. **Assessment Review** – Scot Prebles, who has been participating on the assessment review committee at ODE, updated the committee on the progress of that group. It appears the committee is several meetings removed from making final recommendations, and is scheduled to meet next week. An update will follow when the committee meets in June.

3. **OTES Recommendations** – It appears the OTES recommendations will not go into effect for the 2017-2018 school year. It is the consensus of the education community to take the next school year to gather additional feedback on the changes, using that time to fully inform the field on the nature and ramifications of the changes.

4. **ESSA** – There is no additional information to report at this time as we await the outcome of the assessment committee.

C. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **Meeting With House Education Committee Chair** – The Education Advisory Committee will meet with House Education Committee Chairman Brenner on Monday, June 5th, at 10:00 a.m. at BASA. The agenda will cover several bills currently under consideration to repeal Common Core, as well as our continued dialogue involving ESSA.

2. **Senator Hite – Senate Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education** – As indicated earlier, the Alliance provided testimony to the committee in open session. The testimony focused on the inadequacy of the foundation formula, fair funding levels for all districts, protection for guarantee districts, increased funding to the cap, and restoration of the cuts to TPP.

3. **Battelle for Kids – Value-Added** – A meeting has been scheduled with representatives of Battelle for Kids to explore their position on value-added and whether they should be considered a partner as the Alliance explores changes to this approach. A report to the committee regarding that meeting will be made in June.

4. **ODE – Strategic Planning – Plan Development Oversight Committee** – Tony Podojil distributed several documents from ODE that described their strategic planning process and the Alliance's participation. The Alliance has been selected to serve on the oversight committee, which will be reviewing all recommendations coming before the State Board of Education. The Alliance is one of seven outside educational organizations that has been asked to serve on the oversight committee.

D. Membership.

1. **Executive Committee Openings** – Replacements are needed for the executive committee due to personnel changes at Mentor, Vandalia-Butler, Loveland, and Centerville. Chad Hilliker indicated that, since he is moving to the Hamilton County ESC, which plans to become a member of the Alliance, he would be able to continue serving as a member for the Cincinnati region. That still leaves two positions in the Dayton/Cincinnati area to fill. The Mentor position is part of the Northern region, and Joe Regano has identified several candidates in that area for consideration.

2. **Membership – 2017-2018** – Cuyahoga Heights and the Hamilton County ESC have indicated an interest in joining the Alliance next year. Cuyahoga Heights will be a returning member and the ESC would be new. Kirtland and Woodridge are also considering becoming members for next year.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The next meeting is scheduled for 6/07/17.

ESSA/ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

The next meeting is scheduled for 6/21/17 and may follow the regular Executive Committee meeting scheduled earlier that day.

OLD BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

No items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT


Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA. The meeting date was changed to accommodate upcoming vacation schedules.

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 May 24, 2017.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director