

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

June 21, 2017

Vice- Chairperson Tom Holser called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on June 21, 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:

Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Brad Nevlin	Vandalia/Butler City Schools
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville City Schools
Michael Sheppard	Berea City Schools
John Marschausen	Hilliard City Schools
Robert Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Nancy Santilli	KenstonCity Schools

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

While no executive session was held, Tony Podojil updated the committee on the progress associated with the search for a new administrative assistant. He indicated that an individual had been identified and they were in the process of negotiating terms and conditions of employment. The resume of the individual under consideration was distributed for review. The plan is to hire this individual through the Rachel-Wixey agency for the initial six-month employment period. Once that period has been completed, the goal is to move that person on to one of the ESC payrolls permanently.

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the May 24, 2017 meeting was electronically sent to members following that meeting for their review.

Joe Regano moved and Jeff Brown seconded the approval of the minutes for May 24, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Reports.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for May. At our current spend rates, we will be exceeding our budget projections by approximately \$7,000.00. Most that increase deals with the special programs associated with our anniversary celebration that was part of the capital conference annual meeting. After this year's budget ending on June 30<sup>th</sup>, overall, our ending cash balance is on target

to meet our six-month cash balance requirement and as well as our two-month reserve for meeting future special project goals.

Bob Scott moved and Joe Regano seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of March 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Current Legislative Concerns.**

1. **Biennium Budget Planning** - Jim Betts and Mike Dovilla provided the committee with an update of the work of the Senate in terms of the final stages of the budget deliberation process. The funding shortfall of close to 1 billion has made this anything but a typical budget development process. Normally, the Senate would have the flexibility of adding funds to the House version of the budget but that was not an option this time.

In comparing the House version to what the Senate is proposing, clearly, the Senate version offers a much more balanced approach to school funding overall. Districts on a guarantee benefit from the change in the number of years used to calculate enrollment losses while those on the cap lose some gains due to the reduction of cap limits to 3%.

We were not successful in our efforts to get the fair funding amendment added to the Senate version of HB49. It certainly was not because of a lack of effort on our part or support by members of the General Assembly who truly understood what we were trying to accomplish. The fact that we pushed the impact out to 2020 may have helped defer any financial impact in this budget but also may have pushed the issue into the background due to the other immediate budget issues they were facing. Finally, we were not confident that the Governor would look favorably on this provision which would have made it susceptible to a veto.

Finally, while the TPP districts fared better in the Senate version, the relief we were seeking in terms of several amendments did not materialize. Hopefully, the changes that were made will make it through the conference committee in their present form.

A couple of policy issues were also included in the Senate version including the changes in the graduation requirements for the Class of 2018 as well as the reduction of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies tests as a requirement of the state assessment system.

### **B. ODE/State Board of Education**

1. **Graduation Requirements** – The resolution approved by the board and sent to the General assembly was finally included in the amended version the Senate Approved (see above). While this solves the problem for the class of 2018, we are anticipating that there will be similar issues with the Class of 2019.

2. **Assessment Review** – The task force provided a final set of recommendations to the State Superintendent that contained many of the items we have been advocating for. We are anticipating that those recommendations will be shared with the full board and we will begin monitoring potential impacts and changes that may result from those recommendations.

3. **OTES Recommendations** – Jeff Brown reported that it appears that the department will take the next year to discuss and begin a roll out of the changes recommended by the task force.

4. **ESSA** – If all goes according to the plan ODE discussed earlier, they are still targeting August as the date for their submittal to the Feds. We should know more about their plans when we meet again in July.

**C. Meetings with Key Stakeholders**

1. **House Education Committee Meeting w/Chair** - The Education Advisory Committee will be meet with House Education Chairperson Brenner on Monday, July 10 at 10:00 AM at OSBA. At that meeting, we will be discussing the state budget as well as several of the items that have been on the House Education Committee's agenda including bills associated with changes to the academic standards.

2. **Battelle for Kids – Meeting on Value-Added** – While we had a lengthy and productive meeting with leadership at Battelle on how best to proceed with a discussion on value-added, it does not appear they are willing to take the lead in terms of seeking changes to the present system. While they understand, the problems associated with the manner that ODE is using the data, they view their role as more of an advisory organization than as an agent for change.

On the other hand, they showed an interest in our Quality Profile project and would consider working with us in the future as we develop this in more detail. We will continue to pursue this topic with them as well a further reefing the data around the validity of that project. Gail suggested that we look at the research done by the Hanover group that provides support for the topics included in the profile.

3. **ODE – Strategic Planning – Plan Development Oversight Committee** – Tony provided the committee with an update of the work being accomplished by the Strategic Planning Oversight Committee. The meetings to date have been a general review overall seeking input from the members regarding what areas they believe should be the focus of the plan. He indicated that he has some concern that the department is still relying on o data sets that we have pointed out were a problem in the past such as the college remediation rate and the calculation being used to determine chronic absenteeism.

**D. Membership**

1. **Executive Committee Openings** – The committee welcomed Nancy Santilli, Kenston and John Marschausen, Hilliard to the executive committee. Chad Hillicker will remain a member of the committee although he will change positions and become the Assistant Superintendent at the Hamilton County ESC. They will be joining the Alliance beginning on July 1.

There are two additional openings to fill in the Southern region. Gail Kist-Kline recommended that the committee consider adding Robb OLeary, Vandalia-Butler and Steve Estop, Mariemont to fill the vacancies. Tony indicated that he would follow-up with both to gauge their interest in becoming members of the executive committee.

2. **Membership – 17/18** – Tony indicated that the following districts have indicated their interest in becoming members beginning in the 17/18 school year: Kirtland, Cuyahoga Heights, Hamilton County ESC and Woodridge.

### **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The committee met on June 7 by conference call and we discussed in general, what was occurring in the Senate regarding the budget and the progress we were making on guarantees, caps, fair-funding and TPP.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/13/17

### **ESSA/ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP**

Jim and Joe provided a verbal summary of the meeting held on 5/17/17 during the legislative update portion of the agenda.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/20/17.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Jim Betts provided the committee with a copy of a draft document dealing with school funding. He indicated that he felt this would be a good start in terms of develop a White Paper on this topic. The committee agreed for the need to work on such a document and directed Tony and Mike to continue to refine the document over the summer so that it would be ready for the inclusion of additional contributors from the organization.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Congrats were extended to Mike Dovilla on his promotion to Commanding Officer in the Naval Reserve.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Tom Holser adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at OSBA.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I, Tom Hosler, Vice- 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 June 21, 2017.

  
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Tom Hosler, Vice-Chair

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director