

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

September 24, 2014

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 September 24, 2014 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
Steve Kramer	Madeira City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Adrienne James	Sycamore Community Schools
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Brad Neavin	Vandalia-Butler City Schools
Thomas Tucker	Worthington City Schools

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

MINUTES

Bob Scott moved and Mick Shoaf seconded the approval of the minutes for the July Executive Committee meeting. The motion passed.

FISCAL REPORTS

Joe Regano moved and Todd Hoadley seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for July and August, 2014. The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

Tony and Jim provided the Committee with an update on the deliberations around H. B. 597, the attempt to repeal the common core standards and proposed changes to the state testing program. While it appears that the momentum generated to pass the bill out of committee and on to the House floor has stalled, we should expect further deliberations prior to the election and perhaps during the lame duck

session. If the bill does not pass, something similar may find its way into the next budget bill or be reintroduced as another stand-alone bill for the next General Assembly to consider.

Tom Hosler indicated that an additional issue has arisen regarding the third grade reading guarantee and how the state is measuring literacy progress during the current school year. It appears that those students who are scoring in the 394 to 399 range in October, while not requiring remediation, will count as a failure for district purposes because this will be considered their final result since PARCC, which will be taken in the spring, is not correlated to the OAA.

This is an issue that will be taken up with legislators, in particular the Senate, when Jim and Tony meet with representatives next month.

B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **State Superintendent** – Paul, Tony, and Jim had a follow-up meeting with State Superintendent Ross and his staff. Dr. Ross had indicated previously that, as the Department prepares for the next budget process, he would be willing to consider language that would eliminate certain obstacles for schools that are performing at a high level. Based on that initial meeting, the legislative committee developed a list of recommendations that were shared with and well received by the Department. Dr. Ross then asked the Alliance to consider what constitutes a **high performing district**. Tony and Jim indicated that they would establish a follow up meeting with Dr. Ross in August to again review the list, as well as a proposed definition of a high performing district.

2. **ODE Staff** – Tony reminded the committee that ODE is interested in learning more about the second release of the “Quality Profile,” including what types of information are being reported to our communities and the resulting feedback. A follow-up meeting in October is planned.

3. **State Budget Director** – As a follow-up to our July meeting, the Alliance provided Director Keen a list of top 50 and bottom 50 school districts in terms of the amount of state foundation dollars received compared to the state personal income tax dollars paid by residents of the district. The list was distributed and the committee members suggested that a full list of all school districts be sent to members in addition to the top/bottom fifty lists. Tony indicated that the chart would be sent following the meeting.

C. Membership.

In terms of renewals, we are still waiting for four districts: Avon Local, Kirtland, Lake County ESC and Riverside Local. Westerville recently sent a communication indicating, that, due to budget issues, they would not be rejoining this year. Paul indicated he would make a personal contact with Supt. John Kellogg.

D. Quality Profile.

The release of this year’s Quality Profile on September 15th went well. News coverage in Cincinnati, Cleveland and some local papers was comprehensive and positive. Feedback will be gathered during our regional meetings in October, compiled and shared with members at the annual meeting. Over 60 districts participated this year.

E. State Survey #3.

The committee reviewed the results of the state survey conducted this September that focused on communication strategies and local control issues. The information from the survey will be shared with members during the regional meetings.

F. Accountability Task Group – Meeting Summary.

Jim provided the committee with an update on the work of the Accountability Task Group. One of the areas that the committee has been debating is how best to identify what constitutes a high performing district. If the State Department is sincere in its pursuit of some operational relief, which districts qualify for that designation will need to be based on some meaningful standard. The committee will continue its discussion when it meets again in October.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The summary of the topics to be shared with the State Superintendent that was developed during the July meeting was distributed and thoroughly discussed. The next meeting of the legislative committee is scheduled for October 8th at BASA.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Research Project Proposal – Burges & Burges.

Tony distributed a pricing list from Burges and Burges describing the costs associated with engaging that group for an in depth survey of local communities. The cost structure is discounted based on the number of Alliance participants. Information will be shared with members at our regional meetings in October.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Regional Meetings – October.

Regional meetings are scheduled to be held the second week of October. Topics to be covered are the survey, the 'Quality Profile' release and an update of the current legislative issues.

B. OSBA Conference / Alliance Annual Meeting – 11/11/14.

As a reminder to all members, the annual meeting has been moved to 8:00 AM on Tuesday, 11/11/14 from our normal Monday afternoon lunch session. We hope to return to the Monday date for next year's conference unless feedback is positive about the Tuesday morning meeting.

C. School Starting Times – Bexley.

Mike Johnson indicated that Bexley had been studying school starting times for high school students and was interested in knowing which, if any, districts had moved their starting time to later in the morning. It was apparent that most districts were starting at a similar time as Bexley. The primary reason for early starting times is accommodation of transportation schedules and afternoon activity schedules.

D. SAT – Opportunities and Changes.

Tony distributed a communication he received from SAT on some of the changes they are implementing in the 14/15 school year. Included in those changes is a waiver of fees for their preparation courses. This information will be shared with members at the regional meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2014 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 September 24, 2014.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director