

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

September 23, 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 September 23, 2015 in the BASA Conference Room, 8050 N. High St., Route 23, and Columbus, OH 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Mike Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Michael Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Scot Prebles	Brecksville-Broadview Heights City Schools
Chad Hilliker	Loveland City Schools
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village Schools
Steve Kramer	Madeira City School District
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village Schools
Mick Shoaf	Rocky River City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington 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**

Joe Regano moved and Kathi Powers seconded the approval of the meeting minutes for the July 22, 2015 meeting. The motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Reports.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity for July and August and reviewed the start of the fiscal year, pointing out several changes to the budget discussed previously. He reviewed the current revenue position based on new membership totals and the impact that will have on our yearly totals.

Steve Kramer moved and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for July and August, 2015. The motion passed.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **TPP Governor's Veto** – Jim and Joe provided the committee with a review of the most recent discussions that have been held between the Alliance and CFFO. CFFO has been working to clarify the individual district data around our original offset proposal in order to have that information available once we are ready to meet with legislators as well as the education organizations. That work is close to being finished and should be available by the end of September for members to review.

CFFO has been having some preliminary discussions with key leaders in the House to ascertain what level of support may exist for the proposal. Our immediate next step will be to schedule a meeting with the organizations to review the proposal and get their feedback.

Jim pointed out that the timeframe for this to be considered is in all probability sometime prior to the Thanksgiving break thereby leaving us with a very short window to get this done. In addition, groundwork will need to be laid in the Senate so that, when a bill gets out of the House, it will be supported once it arrives in the Senate.

Jim indicated that other than our concept, several other ideas are being explored including one by Representative Cupp that would change the Governor's reduction criteria from a percentage of total revenue sources to the use of a fractional millage amount as the means to determine the level of yearly reductions. In addition to getting both the House and Senate to agree, we will also need to satisfy the Governor in order to avoid another veto. From what we have heard informally, any concept that does not include 100% of the districts experiencing some type of reduction and a predictable ending to TPP reimbursements will probably face another veto.

Communications to members will be sent out this week updating them on the current efforts around TPP and what they should say and do when discussing this with legislators.

2. **HB 2 – Charter School Reform** – Based on what we are hearing, the House will not concur with the Senate version and vote to send the bill to a conference committee to work out the differences. That should happen soon.

In addition, a meeting with Representative Hayes and his advisory committee was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>, in which we were able to provide feedback to the Representative about what we hoped would occur regarding a greater level of accountability and transparency. The issue that was addressed by the Supreme Court regarding equipment purchased by charter sponsors and who maintains ownership was also discussed. There is general agreement that the current provision, in which operators maintain ownership of school furniture and materials, needs to be changed.

That discussion led to a presentation by Steve Kramer and Gail Kist-Kline regarding an initiative that was underway in the Cincinnati area. That group is advocating for greater transparency and accountability for charters, similar to what is expected for public schools. The committee agreed that, in general, we support high quality options for students, including charter schools that offer the same levels of transparency and accountability that public schools provide their constituents.

3. **SB 3 – School Deregulation** – It appears that SB 3 has stalled in the House. In light of the other issues being addressed by the House Education Committee, this bill may not be heard until after the first of the year.

4. **State Testing Program** – Jim Betts updated the committee on the work of the Accountability Committee, as well as discussions with Rep. Hayes and Senator Lehner, regarding the release of the cut scores for PARCC by the State Board of Education, and the impact student non-participation will have on district results and overall rankings. We have been discussing with Rep. Hayes committee extending the hold harmless language to districts for the 2014-15 school year as a means to mitigate the issues student "opt-out" has caused.

In addition to the issues involving PARCC, it appears the Department has changed its position about how alternative tests impact the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Originally, the Department was indicating that students need to take the Third Grade Test and, if they did not pass the exam, could use the alternative exam score as a means to satisfy the guarantee.

Based on a communication received by Twinsburg parents, the Department is now indicating that an alternative score alone will satisfy the requirements. That communication is advising parents that it is not necessary for students to participate in the Third Grade Reading Test. If that occurs, the district data for the exam will be impacted negatively, since those students would then be counted as a zero for reporting purposes.

**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. Jim reviewed the four areas that the committee is currently addressing: state testing program, charter school reform, student participation on state tests, College Credit Plus.

The committee discussed in detail the impact College Credit Plus is having on district finances. Districts are receiving bills for textbooks that, in some cases, exceed the tuition reimbursement amounts. The committee discussed with Rep. Hayes the possibility of a means test for supplies and textbooks. He asked members of the committee to bring in examples of invoices that could be shared at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 5th at 9:30 a.m. in Columbus.

2. **Senate Education Committee** – Jim and Tony updated the committee on the content of their most recent meeting with Senator Lehner, Chair of the Senate Education Committee. They were updated on what the Senate may be considering in terms of TPP, Charter School Reform and the State Testing system.

**C. State Survey Results**

Tony presented the data from the most recent survey. Questions focused on the relevance of the Quality Profile as a communications tool for our communities, feedback on the state testing program and whether communities support the College Credit Plus program.

The committee spent some time reviewing the questions and in particular the results of the College Credit Plus question. There was an overall sense that the question asked was not specific enough and did not adequately examine whether communities would support the expansion of this program with additional levy dollars.

It was agreed that additional information is needed and may be part of our next statewide survey. Paul Fallon indicated that he had developed a set of additional questions around College Credit Plus and would share that survey data once it was released later this week. Tony will forward that on to members once he receives it.

**D. Membership.**

1. **New Member Orientation** – Tony provided the committee with a review of the orientation program held on September 9<sup>th</sup> for those members who were new to the Alliance. Based on the feedback received from that group, it would appear that the day was a success and the activities they participated in were meaningful and informative. We will now consider doing this on a yearly basis.

2. **New Members** – Tony reported that Eastwood Local and Chardon Local have joined and Kings Local has indicated its intent to join the Alliance. Rossford, Bowling Green, Strongsville and Princeton still remain on our radar in terms of potential new members. Based on the three additional members indicated above, membership now stands at 69.

**E. Communications**

Several member advisories regarding the budget and the impact of the Governor's veto were distributed to members over the last several weeks. Members should anticipate several communications in the next month on the pending TPP legislation, the charter school reform bill, state testing and information about registering for our next round of regional meetings.

**LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A written summary of the deliberations of the Legislative Committee that was held on September 9th was distributed to the committee. The major focus of that meeting was the impact of the Governor's veto on the budget bill and planning for next steps for reversing those changes. In addition, discussions were held on the state testing program and a possible issue involving the tax language around TIFF.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 14th.

**ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP**

Jim Betts provided the committee with a review of the Accountability Task Group meeting that was held on September 16th. The highlights of that meeting included a discussion of the cut scores recently released by ODE, our survey data on state testing, student participation on tests and the hold harmless provisions. The next meeting is scheduled for October 20th.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Executive Committee Replacements - Recommendations**

All open positions on the Executive Committee with the exception of one in the Columbus area have been filled. The Columbus contingent was scheduled to meet following the conclusion of this meeting to make a recommendation for a replacement.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Meeting.**

A discussion was held regarding the agenda for the Annual Meeting and it was agreed that Alliance principal founder, Dr. Homer Mincy, should be honored as a recipient of the award that bears his name, *The Homer F. Mincy Education Leadership Award*. Paul Imhoff volunteered to extend the invitation to Homer and arrange for his attendance.

**B. Quality Profile Release.**

The Quality Profile was released on September 14<sup>th</sup>, following a media release sent out by the Alliance. An article in the Columbus Dispatch regarding the release was shared with the committee.

**C. Steering Committee – Lobbying Services.**

Paul Imhoff indicated he would like to have an Executive Session prior to the meeting in October to discuss lobbying services and the performance evaluation process.

**D. Website Development.**

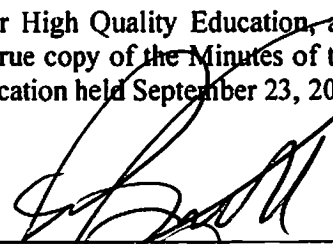
Tony indicated that the Alliance is in need of some assistance with the management of our website. Before looking for outside resources, he asked if there was any district interested in taking on this task, similar to how Upper Arlington manages fiscal services for the Alliance. Anyone interested should contact him directly.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 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 September 23, 2015.

  
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Paul Imhoff, Chair

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director