

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

January 27, 2016

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 January 27, 2016 in the Upper Arlington Conference Room located in the Graf Building, 2020 Builder's Place, Columbus, OH 43204.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City Schools
Mike Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Tom Henderson	Centerville City Schools
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village Schools
Steve Kramer	Madeira City Schools
Gail Kist-Kline	Mason City Schools
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City Schools
Brad Neavin	Vandalia-Butler City Schools
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes for the September 23, 2015 and October 28, 2015 meetings were electronically sent to members prior to the meeting for their review.

Joe Regano moved and Jeff Brown seconded the approval of the minutes for September and October, 2015. The motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Reports.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of financial activity for October, November and December. He reviewed our current revenue position based on the new membership totals and our current expenditure projections. He provided an explanation for several of the expenditure line items that currently exceed cost projections, as well as a fiscal review of the costs associated with the annual meeting at the Capital Conference.

Steve Kramer moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for October, November, and December, 2015. The motion passed.

Tony also indicated to the committee that he would begin planning a preliminary budget for the 2017 fiscal year for presentation at the April meeting. Any changes and or additions to the budget should be included in those budget discussions.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **State Testing – “Opt Outs”, HB 420** – Jim provided the committee with an update on the hearing currently under way in the House Education Committee regarding changes to the report card that would assist in mitigating the damage done by the student “opt out” movement. He indicated that Senate and House Republicans had been discussing what provisions could be supported and that Senator Lehner had drafted several amendments that were adopted by the House Education Committee.

The modified bill allows for two PI scores to be printed on the report card, one with the “opt outs” included and one without. These provisions would only be in effect for the 2014/15 report card. In addition, the legislation spells out penalties for those who manipulate the data by encouraging low performing students to opt out of taking the test. There is an emergency clause attached to the bill so that it could go into effect immediately.

Jim indicated that he has been working with several member districts, as well as a couple of non-Alliance member districts, in preparation for testimony to the committee. Those included members Twinsburg and Loveland and non-members Minster and Fort Recovery.

Paul suggested that the executive committee consider establishing a task force to address what changes we would like considered as the state and ODE respond to federal changes related to testing and reporting requirements. The following members volunteered to serve on that committee: Mike Sheppard (Chair), Brad Neavin, Jeff Brown, and Gail Kist-Kline. A conference call is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 2nd at 3:30 pm. Tony and Jim will also participate in that discussion.

2. **College Credit Plus** – Jim updated the committee on our current progress in getting the legislature to reconsider some of the provisions of College Credit Plus. While we were having productive discussions with Rep. Hayes when he was chair of the House Education Committee, those conversations have changed with the appointment of Representative Brenner as chair. We will continue to push for a means test for both credit hour charges and book and materials costs when we meet with the Representative on Feb 3rd.

3. **Tangible Personal Property** – Jim reviewed once again the issues associated with the Governor’s vetoes and the potential impact on members. We plan to meet with Rep. Cupp in the coming months to restart those discussions. Based on his background and understanding of school finance, Rep Cupp may represent our best resource in an attempt to have changes made to the formula before the next budget deliberations.

4. **Foundation Formula/Minimum Funding Level** – Jim indicated that, while Rep. Brenner may not be receptive to some of our other ideas on other issues, he may be a key to getting the minimum funding provision reintroduced for consideration. With the impact this has on his home district (Olentangy), we anticipate he again will be a strong supporter.

5. **SB 3 – School Deregulation** – The bill is finally being heard in the House Education Committee. It appears that a substitute bill will be introduced soon, but its contents have not yet been made available.

### B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **State Superintendent / ODE Staff** – A meeting with the interim superintendent is scheduled for January 28th at 3:00. Paul Imhoff, Tom Hosler, Tony Podojil and Jim Betts are planning to attend.

2. **Senate Education Chair, Peggy Lehner** – Informal meetings have been conducted with Senator Lehner regarding her position on HB 420 and generally addressing the “opt out” issue.

3. **House Education Committee** – The Education Advisory Committee, put together by the Alliance, has rescheduled a meeting with Chairman Brenner (R-Olentangy) for February 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in Columbus.

**C. Membership.**

1. **New Members** – Tony reported that Parma has expressed an interest in rejoining the Alliance. A dues invoice for the second half of this year is being sent for their consideration. Rossford and Bowling Green still remain on our radar in terms of potential new members in the Toledo area. Minster, a high performing district located in the Southwest, is also interested in joining.

**D. Quality Profile.**

Tony indicated that he has been in contact with several districts who have shown an interest in the quality profile (Parma, Tipp City, Black River, Minster, Mercer County ESC). The committee suggested that we consider putting together a media release to coincide with the release of the state report card in February. That would allow districts to once again highlight their earlier release in September. Tony indicated he would work on modifying our earlier release and send it to members for feedback.

**E. Communications.**

Tony indicated that, based on the release of the report card in late February, it would be timely to have our next round of regional meetings in March. Dates in the first two weeks of the month will be targeted.

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

A summary of the deliberations of the January 13th meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. The major focus of that meeting was HB 420 and the state testing system, along with the fiscal impact that the College Credit Plus program was having on districts.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP**

Jim Betts reported on the January conference call of the task group which continues to search for solutions for the “opt-out” issue that has impacted many Alliance districts. The group is hoping that a ‘hold harmless’ solution that will exclude students that did not participate in mandatory tests during school year 2014-15 will be part of HB 420 recently added to the agenda of the House Education Committee. That legislation continues to receive pushback from ODE, which fears reprisals from USDE, and some legislators who believe a “hold harmless” provision would cause educators to encourage poor performers not to participate in state mandated assessments.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Meeting – Feedback.**

Barb Adams provided the committee with an overview of the costs associated with this year’s event compared to the prior two years. Overall, it appears we need to add approximately \$2,500 to the budgeted amount to cover all expenses. That is consistent with prior years and appears to be a reasonable amount for the annual meeting.

Based on our attendance this year (287), membership appears to favor the noon time slot on Monday rather than a breakfast meeting. Based on that, we have secured the room for next year for the same time and day. Also, based on our increased participation, we qualify for a 10% discount from the hotel. Our preference is to keep the cost of the meeting at \$30 per person and subsidize the remaining portion from member dues.

The committee was in agreement with remaining at the Hilton and the price structure for the meeting.

**B. Steering Committee – Performance Evaluation Process.**

Paul Imhoff indicated that a Performance Evaluation Committee, under the chairmanship of Tom Hosler, should start their work on developing the appropriate documentation for an evaluation system to be used for those working for the Alliance. In addition to Tom, other members of the committee include Tom Henderson, Steve Kramer, and Bob Scott.

**C. Steering Committee – Transition.**

Paul Imhoff indicated that a Performance Evaluation Committee, under the chairmanship of Tom Hosler, should start their review of what other changes, if any, the Alliance should consider as it transitions to new lobbying personnel. In addition to Tom, other members of the committee include Joe Regano, Kathi Powers, Jeff Brown, Chad Hilliker, Brad Neavins and Scot Prebles.

## NEW BUSINESS

**A. State Superintendent Search.**

The committee discussed what role the Alliance should try to play in the selection of the next state superintendent. The committee agreed that we should contact the search firm to provide them with our feedback, as well as ascertaining what the other educational organizations are attempting to do.

Jim indicated that he had been in contact with the President of the State Board who indicated that we should reach out to the search firm and contact the Department for that information. Jim indicated he would follow through and attempt to set up a meeting with the search firm.

**B. Executive Committee Membership.**

1. **Cuyahoga County Region** – An opening exists with the move of Scot Prebles to Forest Hills from Brecksville-Broadview Heights. Following a short discussion, several candidates were suggested and the members of that region agreed that an offer to join the committee should be extended to Clint Keener at Bay Village. Tony Podojil indicated he would reach out to Clint following the meeting to see if he is interested and, if so, invite him to our meeting in February.

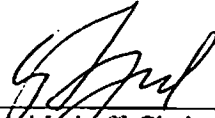
2. **Cincinnati Region** – With the announced retirement of Steve Kramer (Madera), an opening will be created for the southern region beginning in the 2016/17 school year. Members of the region recommended that Scot Prebles be appointed. Scot has already indicated an interest, as well as a willingness to attend meetings as a non-voting member through the remainder of this school year. A recommendation to appoint Scot will be included on the February agenda.


## ADJOURNMENT

Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 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 January 27, 2016.

  
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Paul Imhoff, Chair

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director