

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

September 28, 2016

Chair Paul Imhoff called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 10:00 a.m. on September 28, 2016 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 Local Schools
Clint Keener	Bay Village Schools
Michael Johnson	Bexley City Schools
Michael Sheppard	Berea City Schools
Tom Henderson	Centerville City Schools
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	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
Chad Hilliker	Loveland City Schools
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg 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 Alliance Executive Director Anthony Podojil, Consultant Jim Betts, and Executive Assistant Barbara Adams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Paul Imhoff requested that the committee move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel and contract issue. Jeff Brown moved, and Scot Prebles seconded, that the committee move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 10:15 am. Jeff Brown moved and Scot Prebles seconded a recommendation that the Alliance begin the process of negotiating with Representative Mike Dovilla to be the next legislative consultant for the organization with a start date of January 1, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

The minutes for the June 22, 2016 meeting, that were electronically sent to members prior to the meeting, were reviewed.

Joe Regano moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the minutes for June 22, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial statements for June, July and August. The committee reviewed the final 2015/16 budget statement, the current revenue position and expenditure projections for the 2016/17 budget.

Gail Kist-Kline moved and Bob Scott seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the months of June, July and August, 2016 and for FY2016. The motion passed unanimously.

Based on the motion to enter into negotiations with Mike Dovilla, Tony Podojil indicated that the current budget would need to be amended to cover the cost of Mr. Dovilla's compensation during the second half of the fiscal year. Funds from the reserve will need to be transferred to the budget once a contract is signed and the final costs are determined.

Paul Imhoff updated the committee on the preliminary returns from the state audit. He indicated that several recommendations would be forthcoming including a need to provide public notifications of our meetings similar to what is required at the district level. In addition, there will be a recommendation that the Chair review and authorize all expenditures monthly. Paul indicated he has instituted that practice beginning in October of 2016.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. **State Testing/ESSA** – Jim updated the committee on what has been occurring regarding the stakeholder meetings that ODE has been holding across the state. While these continue to occur, there is belief that the Department is already working on the actual draft of the application. If this is true, there is a concern that districts would not have the opportunity to meaningfully respond if the document is released as a finished product and goes well beyond the requirements needed to remain in compliance with the new federal law.

Jim also updated the committee on our work with the Urban 8 to determine if a collaborative effort regarding ESSA can be formed by the two groups. After several discussions, it is obvious the groups are much closer than first believed in terms of what we would like to see under the new ESSA rules. A second meeting with the lobbyists from this group is scheduled for later in the week.

In addition, Jim shared House Education Chair Brenner's comments to the Advisory Committee during which he indicated his support for a minimalist compliance strategy for Ohio's ESSA application. Chairman Brenner may be someone we can reach out to if the process is moving too quickly or not responding to feedback from the field.

Finally, in an effort to insure a proper vetting of the application, we are contacting legislators about the need to vet the ESSA application before the Joint Education Oversight Committee. This would provide a public forum, including both legislative chambers, for testimony from school districts and other stakeholders and an effective assessment of the provisions in the proposed application.

2. **HB 524 – Value-Added** – With the anticipation that this will be a light legislative lame duck session, we do not anticipate any further discussion on HB 524 during this legislative session. Since this bill was originally introduced by Representatives Cupp and Smith as a way to begin a conversation on value-added, no substantive hearings have been held and no action will take place any time soon. Paul Imhoff suggested that we encourage our legislative representatives to have HB 524 referred to the Joint Education Oversight Committee for prompt, more thorough discussions.

3. **College Credit Plus / HB 445** – After a lengthy discussion regarding the pros and cons of the current methodology used to fund the CCP program, the committee voted to abandon our efforts to have a means test applied to tuition costs, but continue with our pursuit of a means test for textbooks, supplies and fees. In terms of the latter, the committee recommended that districts have the flexibility to determine how fee and supply costs are currently to be handled.

4. **SB 3 – Deregulation** – This bill, which passed the Senate by a 31-0 vote in May of 2015, continues to sit in the House Education Committee without a clear indication of what may happen next. SB 3 was widely believed this would be the vehicle used to pass several other education items during the lame duck session, but there has been no recent indication that will occur. If this bill does not pass in the lame duck session, it may reappear as part of the budget deliberations.

5. **HB 410 - Truancy** – Jim updated the committee on the status of HB 410, the truancy bill now being heard in the Senate Education Committee. He indicated that the legislative committee met to discuss several amendments to the bill being considered by the Senate, including an option that would exempt districts whose truancy rate does not exceed a certain percentage. How the truancy levels are calculated may be an issue. The current methodology (the chronic absenteeism rate) includes all students with less than a 90% attendance rate, but includes both excused and non-excused absences. If this percentage is used as the truancy rate, district rates would appear higher than realistic, making it difficult for most districts to be exempted from the requirements.

6. **Biennium Budget Planning** – Jim and Tony provided the committee with an update on the current work being done in preparation for the upcoming biennium budget. Caps, guarantees, the minimum funding level and TPP are all major items under consideration and appropriate strategies are being formulated. Discussions with various groups, as well as a meeting of all districts impacted by the fair funding proposal, have been held over the summer in recent weeks.

B. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **Education Advisory Committee** – The Education Advisory Committee met with House Education Chair Brenner on Tuesday, October 4th. The Chair continues to be receptive to the feedback he is receiving from this committee. Topics discussed included ESSA, HB 410, SB 3, the biennium budget and the upcoming lame duck session.
2. **Ohio Standards Coalition Meeting** – Tony indicated that he was in the process of setting a meeting date with Lisa Gray, Executive Director of the group, to discuss the future and purpose of the Coalition.
3. **State Board Meeting** – Tony indicated that he has been regularly attending the monthly state board meetings. With the number of changes at the department and the need to maintain relationships with the state superintendent and members of the board of education, it is key to keep abreast of what is occurring at the state board level.

C. Membership.

1. **Membership** – Tony provided the committee with an update on the status of membership for the 2016/17 school year. Several member districts still have not paid their dues. Contacts will be made with those districts to encourage payment.
2. **Springfield Local, Bowling Green, Willoughby-Eastlake, Geauga ESC, Huron** – Bowling Green, Willoughby-Eastlake and Huron have expressed interest in membership. All three would profile as potential members. As was indicated previously, Springfield Local has suspended its membership for the year due to financial issues and the Geauga ESC has indicated they plan to join during this school year.

D. Quality Profile - September Release.

Tony updated the committee on the most recent statewide release of the Quality Profile. Approximately 80 districts participated in this year's release. There has been strong interest over the summer and into the first weeks of the school year as districts seek an alternative to the release of the state report card. We continue to hear positive feedback when meeting with other organizations and groups throughout the state. The project is gaining momentum.

E. Annual Meeting.

Tony provided the committee with an update indicating that attendance continues to be strong for the annual meeting with at least 300 expected. The panel discussion has been finalized and will include Representatives Dovilla and Brenner. A reception to recognize the 25th year of the Alliance is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. the same day, in a room near the main concourse of the Convention Center and OSBA's traditional Monday reception.

F. New Superintendent's Orientation – 9/15/16.

The second new superintendent's orientation was held on September 15th. About half of those eligible were able to attend and the feedback from those who participated was again very positive.

G. Fair Funding Meeting – 9/22/16.

A majority of the 27 districts who would be impacted by this legislation attended the fair funding meeting that was held on 9/22/16. The group discussed possible strategies to ensure that the necessary language is included in the budget, and that the Governor will not veto it. It was agreed that we need to attack this from all sides and levels and not assume that it will simply make its way through the legislative process again. A follow-up meeting is planned for 4:00 on Monday during Capital Conference.

H. October Regional Meetings.

Tony indicated that regional meetings would be held during the first two weeks of October. Invitations have been distributed to members. The agenda will include discussions on ESSA, Capital Conference, the Quality Profile, the annual survey, next year's budget deliberations and several legislative issues currently pending.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The Legislative/System Improvements Committee conducted a conference call on September 21st to discuss HB 410 and several amendments being considered by the Senate Education Committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12th.

ESSA / ACCOUNTABILITY TASK GROUP

The September meeting of the ESSA/Accountability Task Force was postponed until Jim and Tony had a chance to meet again with the Ohio 8 to discuss possible strategies for an effective combined effort to impact the state's implementation plan.

OLD BUSINESS

The transition process was discussed following the Executive Session portion of the meeting resulting in a recommendation to pursue a contract with Representative Mike Dovilla for legislative lobbying services.

NEW BUSINESS

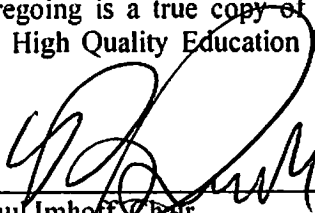
No new items were discussed under new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Paul Imhoff adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at OSBA.

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 September 28, 2016.



Paul Imhoff, Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director