

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

January 23, 2019

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:35 a.m. on January 23, 2019 in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City School District
Michael Sheppard	Berea City School District
Robert Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
John Marschhausen	Hilliard City School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City Schools
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

Also, in attendance were Alliance Executive Director Anthony Podojil and Jessica Voltolini.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from October 24, 2018, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Robert Scott moved and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the minutes for October 24, 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for October, November and December. He explained that the expenses for the Annual Meeting, remains within a reasonable target range, however, increases from the venue related to the cost of the lunch may necessitate a change in the fee charged to participate moving forward.

Todd Hoadley moved and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the months of October, November and December 2018. The motion passed unanimously.

B. State Audit.

Tony Podojil provided a copy and an overview of the 2017 and 2018 year audit recently conducted by the state auditor's office. Based on the reviews for both years, the audit was clean as there were no findings or recommendations to implement.

Scot Prebles moved and Kathi Powers seconded the approval of the state audit reports. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Fiscal Agent – 19/20 School year.

Tony informed the group that Upper Arlington would not be the fiscal agent moving forward and asked if others would consider being the fiscal agent. Suggestions could be emailed to Tony and he would reach out to the districts with information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Lame Duck-Recap.

Jessica, as she had done previously via email for the full membership, provided the Committee with a 2018 year-end Legislative update. She also highlighted the education-related bills that passed the General Assembly during the December Lame Duck Session as indicated below:

1. Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2019 and 2020 - Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2019 and 2020 were addressed by the Legislature in Sub. HB 491 and followed the suggestions we were advocating for over the last several months. The bill does not address the Class of 2021 and beyond which means we will be working with the Governor’s office, General Assembly and ODE/SBOE to help craft a permanent solution to this issue during the upcoming budget session. ODE is required to submit to the House and Senate Education Committees recommendations in April 2019.

2. Treasurer Liability changes were amended into HB491 – HB705 - Treasurer Liability changes from HB 705 were amended into HB 491 as well. While this legislation protects the Treasurer’s from future liability, it does not address the role that Superintendents play in the employee hiring process. This will be an area we may need to address during this legislative session.

3. Student Unexcused Absence SB82- HB66 – SB 82 provisions regarding mandatory notifications to parents in the case of a student’s unexcused absence were amended last minute into HB 66 and will go into effect in March of this year.

4. Property Tax HB343 - HB 343 regarding property tax complaints did NOT pass this General Assembly. We fully expect that this piece of legislation will return during this next legislative session. Whether it returns in its original form or with the agreed upon revisions that were added to the final version of the bill as it was moving through the Senate during Lame Duck has yet to be determined. Jessica and Tony are monitoring closely.

5. Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018-HB428 - HB 428 named the “Ohio Student Religious Liberties Act of 2018” did NOT pass this General Assembly. In terms of legislator support, we are not sure if this bill will be re-introduced this year. Jessica and Tony are monitoring closely.

B. Governor- Cabinet, Education Staff and Budget Process.

Jessica updated the committee on Governor DeWine’s selections for his cabinet focusing on those positions most important to Alliance activities and issues. Those appointments included the following:

Ryan Burgess	Director of Cabinet Affairs
Michael Hall	Director of Policy
Dan McCarthy	Director of Legislative Affairs
Randy Gardner	Chancellor of Higher Education
Kimberly Murnieks	Director of Office of Budget and Management
LeeAnne Cornyn	Director of Children’s Initiatives
Devin Babcock	Education Policy Advisor

Jessica indicated that she is in the process of arranging meetings with these individuals during the budget development process in order to share the Alliance’s policy priorities and recommended approaches to the key education issues we have identified.

C. 133rd General Assembly- House and Senate Leadership and Committee Appointments.

Jessica shared that the House and Senate were engaging in their leadership retreats this month and we should soon find out who will be chairing committees. While we might anticipate some changes on the Senate side, the House is certainly a wild card with the change to Speaker Householder. We will need to see who emerges in leadership positions in the House and then develop our strategies in terms of whom to pursue (Rep. Callender for example) that would be of benefit to our group. Jessica also distributed an updated legislative roster by district that displays each AHQE district's House and Senate representative. Once this list is finalized to include SBOE of representation, it will be distributed to all members for their information and use.

Finally, Jeff Brown shared an update regarding the work of the School Funding Task Force. He indicated that the group had met with the Governor's office as well as new Speaker Householder. Those meeting have been productive. A final report is being prepared and should be completed by the beginning of February in time for our group to review when we meet later that month. Prior to that meeting, Tony and Jessica will compare our current position statements related to school funding as they relate to the final recommendations from the task force.

D. ODE/State Board of Education- Board Leadership.

Laura Kohler, New Albany has been elected Board President and Charlotte McGuire, Vice President at the January Board Organization meeting. Four new appointed members joined the board in January and voted in unison for the selections above. It will be interesting to see how the dynamics of this new board interact in the coming months.

We will be reaching out to the Department to share our views on implementation of HB 491 and the future of graduation requirements. Several Executive Committee members shared what their districts are currently doing in regard to Capstone Projects and Community Service Guidelines. We will be meeting with the Accountability Committee in February to discuss our positions related to the above with the hope of being able to guide the department when they begin their process of writing guidance related to these topics. That guidance is due on May 1st.

E. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.

1. **OSBA, BASA and OASBO** – Tony and Jessica indicated that they have reached out to the lobbyists representing these groups to indicate our willingness to meet with them following the budget's release to work on areas and positions in which we agree.

2. **Ohio Excels** – A new business coalition has formed representing the Chambers in the large metropolitan areas. Lisa Grey is the executive director for that group. As part of our outreach to this group, Tony and Jessica will be meeting with Lisa on February 6. This is a follow-up from our meeting with them in December. In addition, executive committee representatives from Cleveland (Mike Sheppard), Columbus (John Marschhausen) and Cincinnati (Steve Estep) have agreed to work with Jessica and Tony as part of a group that would be potentially collaborating with Ohio Excels on a regular basis going forward. A tentative conference call with this subcommittee is scheduled for February 8 to further discuss graduation requirements.

F. Membership.

1. **New Member** –Tony indicated that Wooster, a past Alliance member, has rejoined the Alliance.

2. **Potential New Members**- Tony is speaking with Reynoldsburg and Circleville about the benefits of membership. Executive Committee members in the Columbus region are encouraged to speak with the Superintendent at Reynoldsburg regarding the benefits of membership and their fit with our organization.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on November 28, 2018, was distributed to members for their review. The contents of that meeting were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 13, 2019.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2019.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Capital Conference- Review and Plans for Next Year

Tony informed the group that feedback on the meeting and luncheon was very good. We have negotiated with Hilton for additional space for next year's meeting which will allow us to increase our seating capacity to 400 guests. He spoke about the increase in buffet cost and possible increase in ticket price for 2019.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Regional Meeting Dates

Jessica and Tony would like to schedule the Regional meetings after March 15th after the budget is out and leadership has been established.

ADJOURNMENT


Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

CERTIFICATE

I, Jeff Brown, Vice-Chair, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes from the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education held January 23, 2019.



Jeff Brown, Vice-Chair



Tony Podojil, Executive Director