

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

February 27, 2019

Chairperson Tom Hosler called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on February 27, 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 (proxy)
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City School District
Robert Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
John Marschhausen	Hilliard City School District
Chad Hilliker	Hamilton County ESC
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
Tim Ackermann	Kings Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City Schools
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Joe Regano	Solon City Schools
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District

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 January 23, 2019, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Scot Prebles moved and Kathryn Powers seconded the approval of the minutes for January 23, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for January. He indicated that we are on target to meet our budget projections in terms of both revenue and expenditure targets.

Brian Poe moved and Robert Scott seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of January 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Fiscal Agent – 19/20 School year.**

Tony informed the group that he is still working with several members who have expressed an interest in assuming the fiscal agent duties for the Alliance. Hilliard has expressed an interest and Tony indicated he would contact Treasurer Brian Wilson to see if they are interested. Andrew Geistfeld, Treasurer at Upper Arlington, has asked that we begin the transition process in April. Our fiscal year ends on June 30.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Graduation Requirements – 2021 and beyond.

Tony and Jessica began the Executive Director's report by reviewing the State Superintendent's Advisory Committee's Graduation Requirements for 2021 and beyond and then juxtaposing those against the Alliance's proposed Graduation Requirements proposal. In general, the committee is in agreement with the course credit requirements and the newly proposed endorsement (seals) requirements that focus on student interest and educational attainment. The testing requirements, the accountability ("competency") requirement based on the end of course exams, generated the greatest diversity in thought.

In terms of the "competency" component, the committee had a lengthy discussion related to which tests should be included both from an accountability standpoint as well as meeting the federal requirements. The committee agreed to recommend Algebra I and English II as the exams used to measure student accountability for the purposes of meeting the diploma requirements. In addition, Science, American History and American Government will continue to be tested as end of course exams but will not count toward student graduation. English I and Geometry are recommended for removal from the testing requirement. That would reduce the testing requirement overall from 7 to 5.

Of the testing areas discussed above, the committee agreed, that if there was an opportunity to further reduce the testing options, both the American History and Government exams could be discontinued. There was recognition that those tests carry some significance with the members of the General Assembly and seeking their removal may be difficult. A Science exam will need to be maintained since that is part of the Federal testing requirements that need to be met.

There was also significant discussion on the Algebra I requirement and how that might impact students who take that course prior to enrolling in high school. Further clarification needs to be obtained from ODE related to this question as well as what happens to those students who complete both Algebra and Geometry before they enter high school.

In addition to the "competency" requirement, the committee discussed several alternative methods in which students could demonstrate proficiency other than meeting the state testing standard. These alternatives included maintaining a GPA of at least 2.0 in either English or math over their four (4) year high school careers in those areas. The committee suggested and agreed to add an additional option that would allow students to meet competency by maintaining a GPA of 2.5 or better in English and math during a student's Junior and Senior years.

Finally, the committee addressed the question of what alternative should be considered as meeting competency for those students who are in a career program or entering the military. Students in both of these categories are required to take exams in their field in order to demonstrate competency in math and English. These exams include the levels of math and English necessary to perform in that career and become licensed or endorsed in that area. Several members of the committee who have had Career Tech experience expressed their support for this idea. The committee agreed that additional discussion needs to be considered in this area and may be something that the career tech administrators take up since they are in a much better position to address this.

1. **Meetings with Organizations** –Tony and Jessica indicated that they will be meeting with the Governor's office, members of the General Assembly and ODE/SBOE to share AHQE's graduation proposal. They indicated that they had already met with the State Superintendent and his staff to share the proposal that was discussed at today's meeting.

In general, there was support for what we are attempting to pursue but a realization on their end, in particular as expressed by the State Superintendent, that the proposal they are currently considering with SBOE will likely be approved in March due to the time restraints they are under by law. They realize that changes to that proposal will need to be made once it reaches the General Assembly.

2. **Ohio Excels Meeting** - Tony and Jessica indicated that they continue to have meetings with this group and once we settle on our graduation proposal they will schedule a meeting with that group to share.

**B. Governor's Office**

Jessica indicated that we had a meeting with Devin Babcock who is the Governor's education policy advisor. It does not appear that the Governor will have a graduation proposal as part of his as introduced biennial budget bill. That would then require the General Assembly to take up that topic once the SBOE approves its proposal and Supt. DeMaria presents it to both the House and Senate Education Committees.

In terms of the biennial budget, we are anticipating some small variations related to the school funding model which would then set the stage for the House to consider changes to the funding model and hopefully incorporate the work of the Cupp/Patterson Task Force.

**C. General Assembly- Leadership and Committee Appointments**

Jessica will distribute an updated legislative roster by district that displays each AHQE district's House, Senate and SBOE member/representative.

Meetings with Senator Lehner, Senate Education Chair, and Senator Brenner are scheduled for next week in which they will have discussion regarding the budget and AHQE's graduation proposal.

**D. ODE/State Board of Education- Graduation Requirements (March)**

See discussion above.

**E. Meetings with Key Stakeholders**

1. **OSBA, BASA and OASBO** – Tony and Jessica indicated that they met with the members of these groups to discuss and share AHQE's graduation proposal. Those groups indicated that they were in support of the recommendations being made by ODE and were not planning on developing their own proposal.

**F. Membership**

1. **Potential New Members**- Tony is still 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 February 13, 2019, was distributed to members for their review. The contents of that meeting were reviewed during the Executive Director's report and contained a review of the graduation proposal as well as a listing of the most recent bills proposed by members of the House and Senate including a reintroduction of the property tax reevaluation bill. That summary will be distributed to membership following this meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13, 2019 and may depend on when the budget is released.

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

The graduation proposal, which was a byproduct of the meeting that was held on February 20, 2019, was distributed to members for their review. The contents of that meeting were covered during the Executive Director's report on graduation requirements

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2019.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Cupp/Patterson School Funding Task Force**

Tom Hosler provided an update on the work of the task force. He indicated that the final report is near completion and the spreadsheets in which district impacts can be ascertained are close to being completed. They intend to meet with the educational organizations prior to a release to all districts. When that occurs, they will hold regional meetings to explain the formula concepts and answer questions from members. They are hopeful that the concepts developed and the strategy to implement the new model will become part of the discussion on school funding in the House Primary and Secondary Education Finance Committee.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Regional Meeting Dates**

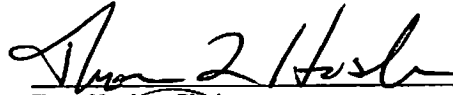
Tony informed the committee that dates have been scheduled for the 2019 Spring Regional meetings and the list, which was distributed during the meeting, would be sent out this week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Tom Hosler, 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 February 27, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Hosler, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tony Podojil, Executive Director