

**ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION
COVID-19 Committee
Conference Call**

August 25, 2020

10:00 A.M.

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance on phone conference: Tony Podojil, Jessica Voltolini, and member representatives from 40 school districts.

Tony Podojil convened the meeting by phone conference at 10:00 a.m.

State Health Requirements – COVID19

Fall Sports and Student Activities

- Governor’s Athletic Order – Feedback
- Ohio Department of Health – Facial Coverings

The Governor’s office will hold a press conference tomorrow at 2 pm and we hope to learn more about the upcoming Performing Arts Order. Once the order is signed and released it will be sent to members.

Questions and Comments on Athletics:

Q. Is there anything in the athletic order that needs clarification?

A. Districts are concerned how OHSSA will utilize the statewide inspectors, what will the position entail, how will they be evaluating the district, when will that happen and will a rubric be offered as guidance. Tony indicated he would reach out to OHSAA for clarification.

Q. The comments from the Doctor who was on last week’s press conference, emphasized the health issues that could result if students acquire COVID, but then said students should go ahead and play, that was confusing to me, was it directed to parents or districts?

A. It is believed that the Governor is leaving it to local control but wanted parents and districts to realize the health issues that could happen.

Q. Did anyone have any issues since Athletics started last week with Soccer?

A. Districts shared that they had no issues to report and everyone involved complied with the new orders. Positive comments were made by parents on what the districts have done to stay safe. Youth programs, however, are having a hard time following the same procedures for safety.

ODE

- ODE Stakeholder Discussions
- Assessments – KRA, Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Tony indicated that on the call yesterday with Paolo, he was asked about assessments; KRA, and third grade reading guarantee. The department was not ready to respond but is open to discussion, feedback, and suggestions. Tony asked the members share their ideas with him as soon as possible so that those can be shared with Paolo.

Q. If we are going to have assessments, being remote, hybrid, and in-house, how can we do that and still get data on students using things we are currently using in the classroom setting? Any suggestions on KRA?

A. Can waivers be given to allow us to administer KRA virtually with some adjustments for the collection of data related to the social aspect of the test. Some districts (fully remote) that have already started the testing, are bringing the students in one at a time or in small groups while parents wait. Districts are concerned about changing from in-house to remote and the timing of the third-grade assessment test. Preferably, we would suggest using the local diagnostic assessments that we are currently using.

Tony shared that the teacher's union is going to push for teacher evaluations to be waived for the 2020-21 school year but not observations. Non-renewal and issuing continuing contracts will need clarification if that occurs. Districts can still use the performance component for the evaluation and set aside the growth measure when completing the evaluations. Consensus was that evaluations should go on and not be suspended in total.

Legislation

- **HB 606 - COVID Liability Protection – Status**
- **SB 350 -Transportation**
- **HB305 – School Funding**

Jessica will keep members updated on the status of Ed Choice, the territory transfer amendment and school funding. Speaker Cupp will work on trying to pass the school funding bill (HB305) this lame duck session. Jessica will keep members posted on the revised language in the bill.

Districts may have budget reductions due to local revenue from a lack of property tax collections. Tony and Jessica asked that districts share that information with their local representatives.

HB606 is pending in the House awaiting the House to reconvene in September. The only action for this bill is to vote to concur with the Senate changes. They are looking into extending the date for HB606 past the end of this calendar year. Jessica will keep us posted on any updates.

HB197 flexibility will expire in December of 2020, we will be working with the House and Senate on additional COVID related provisions for schools. Some of the flexibilities needed to

be extended are testing waivers, Paolo's waiver of authority, and flexibility with board meetings (virtually) after December.

SB350 Senator Brenner's transportation bill is an attempt to clarify that transportation to chartered/private schools will still be the responsibility of the public schools even if the public school is not transporting their own students. Jessica will keep us posted on this as conversations progress.

Next Conference Call:

The next call will be **September 1, 2020, at 10 AM by phone conference, if needed.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.