

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

August 19, 2020

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on August 19, 2020. The Executive Committee met by video conference due to the closing of schools based on health concerns related to the spread of Coronavirus.

Those members in attendance on the video conference from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City School District
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
Tim Ackermann	Kings Local School District
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Mike Zalar	North Olmsted City School District
Thomas Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

Also, present were Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil and Legislative Consultant Jessica Voltolini.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**MINUTES**

Executive Committee meeting minutes from July 22, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Scot Prebles moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for July 22, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for July. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections for the first month's budget for 2020-21 indicates that the budget is on our target as we begin the fiscal year. Ending cash balance as of June 30 is within 90% of meeting our 6 months of cash reserves and 3 months of special project funding. This is based on maintaining our current membership totals. Membership dues are coming in with only a few payments left to receive.

A copy of the financial report was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Kathryn Powers moved, and Nancy Santilli seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of July. The motion passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Coronavirus Update – Current Status.**

#### **1. 2020 – 21 School Year- Reopening**

Members shared observations relating to the start of school indicating that once students returned, there was a certain level of normalcy returning. Overall, students and staff were happy and relieved to be back. On the negative side, athletes have already been quarantined in a variety of sports. Two students showed up for school that were on the quarantine list with both parents COVID positive, but the parents thought it was only for sports and not for attending school or other life events.

Members raised the concern related to at what point are students and staff allowed to return to school, what documents are needed and do the HIPPA laws apply during a pandemic. It is also a concern that staff, who are not able to work due to illness or having to take care of their own children, will impact in person learning and eventually remote learning.

#### **2. OHSSA**

The Governor's order concerning athletics for this school year should be released later today and will be sent to members once received. We will have a call next week, on Tuesday, for our members to discuss and provide feedback. Tony reached out to Dan Leffingwell at OHSSA with questions regarding moving some sports to Spring. He is waiting on Dan to respond. Several concerns over soccer and spectators were mentioned as the season starts for some districts Friday. Some local Boards of Health are saying that high contact sports should not be allowed to start until October while others are saying no sports at all. Some local boards are now changing their decision and guidance based on the Governor's media conference to let sports continue a regular schedule. Many districts are going to follow the order from the Ohio Department of Health based on district legal advice. School districts would like clarity on testing, and other health and safety requirements. We also need to know what the compliance officer must monitor and watch at events.

#### **3. Parent/Community Legal Challenges to District Decisions Regarding Opening**

There are lawsuits that are being filed by families related to both regular and special education students and the reopening of in person learning. The concern is that the districts will not be able to follow the Special Education rules and have difficulty meeting the requirements in the IEP in a remote setting. Special Ed rules have not been modified.

### **B. Current Legislative Update.**

#### **1. Next steps? Fall Return of General Assembly and Lame Duck Session**

Rep. Cupp is the new Speaker of the House, there should not be changes to the leadership through this calendar year, however a few committee members are stepping down. The Chief of Staff for the House Republicans has resigned. The House schedule is still pending.

There are several issues to focus on after Labor Day when the House returns, some of which are extensions of provisions in HB197 from last school year and passing HB606, the liability COVID relief bill. Jessica will make a list of items to consider moving forward and will include the expansion of

temporary license rules on that list. The Department of Education wavier authority for Paolo has expired. Issues related to how assessments will be conducted and show student progress for meeting the standards with KRA will be made.

## **2. HB606**

HB606 passed the Senate, amendments were made, its 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 or not concur and send the bill to the Conference Committee. They are looking into extending the date for HB606 past the end of this calendar year.

## **3. SB350**

Senator Brenner's transportation bill is an attempt to clarify that transportation to chartered/private schools is 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 bills move forward.

## **4. HB305**

The school funding bill could be moving through the house when they return in September. They are working on final changes with the bill. Jessica will be reaching out to several people to touch base on what the Alliance members are concerned with based on the funding formula going into the next budget.

### **C. ODE/State Board of Education.**

#### **1. Preschool Emergency Rules – Restoring Current Ratios**

The State Board passed and changed the emergency early childcare rules that were passed last month to revert to the standard student teacher ratios of 16 to 1.

#### **2. Attendance Guidance**

Make sure your district is following the protocols for attendance (keeping a daily attendance log, how many days students are out, sending out letters) that were sent out in July. You have flexibility but the rules regarding absence and unexcused absence are still in effect.

#### **3. Special Education Rules**

There is also guidance available from ODE on instructing special education students, we need to be sure we are following federal and state requirements for following IEP's.

### **D. Meetings with Key Stakeholders – Outreach this Summer**

#### **1. Rep. Jones - House Primary and Secondary Education Chair**

Please see Legislative update

#### **2. Sen. Lehner—Senate Education Committee Chair**

Please see Legislative update

#### **3. Education Organizations/Ohio 8/Ohio Excels/Fordham**

These meetings will continue and will include both a discussion of how we move forward with this year as well as long term reforms.

### **E. Alliance COVID 19 Meetings**

#### **1. 7/28, 8/4, 8/11, 8/18**

We continue to have these calls every Tuesday, members ask questions and give feedback on these calls that has been very helpful with talking with stakeholders.

**F. Membership**

**1. Dues – Status Report**

Membership dues are still being received.

**2. Annual Meeting**

The Capital Conference will be fully remote. The Executive Committee agreed to conducting a virtual meeting focusing on summarizing the year. Tony will provide an overview of ideas in the September meeting.

**3. Quality Profile – Release Date**

A survey went out to members, most members would like to wait until January to release Quality Profile. Districts that are ready to release the Quality Profile in September or another month may do so, but the media release will go out in January.

**LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for August was postponed.  
The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for August was postponed.  
The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section.


**ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom Conference Invite.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Jeff Brown, Vice-Chairperson, 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 August 19, 2020.

  
Jeff Brown, Vice-Chairperson

  
Tony Podojil, Executive Director