

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

February 24, 2021

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 February 24, 2021. The Executive Committee met by video conference due to 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
Bob Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village 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
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington 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 January 2021 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Bob Hunt moved, and Todd Hoadley seconded the approval of the minutes for January 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for January. He indicated that revenue and expenditures remain on target as we move into the second half of the fiscal year.

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

Mike Zalar moved, and Bob Scott seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of January. The motion passed unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Coronavirus Update- Teacher Vaccinations, Extended Learning Plans, Fall Reopening

It appears that after a rough start, the feedback received from members on the teacher vaccination process has improved. In terms of the February 9<sup>th</sup> press conference regarding the requirement associated with the development of an extended learning plan, the education associations and ODE were unaware that the Governor was going to be making that announcement let alone the April 1 deadline. ODE did publish an initial FAQ's that was distributed through Ed. Connection. ODE, OESCA and the Governor's office are still discussing details and additional guidance. OESCA has developed a template that has been distributed to the ESCs throughout the state that can be used by districts who are looking for assistance.

We are still waiting to see what the department is thinking regarding how remote-learning plans need to be handled for next school year. That issue, along with graduation flexibility for this year are still in the discussion stage.

### B. CDC Recent Guidance

Tony indicated he had received feedback from members concerning the possible changes related to social distancing in the classroom (3 feet vs 6 feet guidance) for the purpose of determining quarantine guidelines. While Franklin county is still under the 6-foot guidance, some districts are choosing to use the 3 feet guidance. The application of this rules continues to vary by region and health department rules which causes a certain level of confusion at the district level as we attempt to fully reopen schools by the March 1 deadline.

### C. Legislative Update

#### 1. **House/Senate Committee Assignments and Leadership:**

Committee appointments have been made with Gayle Manning selected as the Chair of the House Education Committee. Former Superintendent from Clermont County, Adam Bird, is the Vice Chair of the Committee. Sarah Fowler Arthur, former State Board Member, is also on the committee.

The House Finance Committee appointments had no major changes with Scott Oelslager remaining the Chair.

Finance Subcommittee on Primary and Secondary Education now has Tracy Richardson as Chair. Daniel Troy, Brian Baldrige, Jamie Callender, and Bride Rose Sweeney are the other members of this group.

#### 2. **HB 110 (FY22-FY23 Biennial Budget)**

The Governor introduced the budget on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the policy language associated with the budget bill was released late on Thursday last week.

One of several new policy requirements from the Governor is the addition of a computer science requirement at the high school level. The Governor would like a statewide plan for Computer science education that would provide all students with access to the course. Jessica will send a summary of the requirements for the computer science proposal.

The other provisions include:

- a P-Tech Program and the creation of a partnership with K-12, Community Colleges, and business employers in creating a 6-year high school/associate degree in the STEM field.

- Changes to requirements for schools to provide transportation for students at private schools and community schools and changes to payments in lieu of transportation provision.
- Higher Education initiatives around FSFA completion which will require K-12 school districts to enter data sharing agreements with the Department of Higher Education.
- Changes with respect to how auxiliary service dollars go to Private Schools.
- New enforcement language around licensure and educator misconduct issues.

Jessica will have more budget updates for everyone relating to language as it becomes available and will send a summary out to all members.

### **3. Bills we are working on:**

#### **A. State Report Card Reform- House and Senate bills forthcoming.**

Report Card reform remains an Alliance priority and we hope to see it completed and passed as part of the budget. The Senate is working on a stand-alone bill, it is our understanding that the House, thru Rep. Jones, who is no longer the House Ed Chair, but in-House Leadership, is still working on their own report card reform bill. It is likely there will be two competing report card bills, one in the Senate and one in the House. However, we believe most of the language in the bills will be similar (approximately 85%), with differences related to the overall summative rating of the system still needing to be worked out. The Senate and the House are still trying to navigate which report card reporting feature to use and how that impacts programs such as EdChoice as well as when districts are classified as takeover possibilities.

#### **B. SB 1 Financial Literacy- Financial Literacy Credit Requirement.**

Jessica gave an overview of SB 1, the Financial Literacy bill, sponsored by Senator Wilson and Senator McColley. This legislation was introduced during the last General Assembly and was part of Lame Duck. It has had several hearings in the Senate Education committee. Several stakeholders, educational organizations, and businesses worked on SB1 for over the last two years. Senator Wilson's bill requires teaching a .5 elective credit on finance at the high school level, beginning with the 2021/22 school year. While there is general support for the concepts related to financial literacy, the addition of a .5 credit to achieve that goal is highly problematic in terms of scheduling and how that requirement interacts with the other required course completions for graduation.

Jessica will keep members posted on the progress of this bill and the need to connect with their representatives in terms of expressing their concerns with the bill.

#### **C. HB 1 Fair School Funding Formula**

Jamie Callender and Bride Rose Sweency are the new sponsors of HB1 which is the school funding bill HB305 from last General Assembly. Hearings are now be held in the House Finance Subcommittee for Primary and Secondary Education. We are monitoring our opportunity to offer testimony related our priorities related to HB1.

#### **D. HB 67 Waive State Testing Requirements – Testimony**

HB 67 is currently having hearings. In the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. The bill would require the Department of Education to request a federal waiver for Spring testing. If the federal waiver is not approved, the bill is also calling for delaying state testing and offering some flexibility for the Spring testing window. Districts would like to have flexibility for testing or the ability to use their local test data. A copy of the testimony was sent to members for their review. ODE plans to keep Spring testing on schedule and are not likely to extend the testing window beyond what they have done so far. This year's graduation requirements, related to extending the flexibility afforded last year, is a priority to have extended if not as part of this bill but another.

Based on the letter received from the Department of Education, it does not appear that the Feds are going to allow for the waiver of the exams for this spring. District accountability measures will be forestalled and there are some additional flexibility options in terms of timing and the testing window, but districts will still be required to administer assessments this spring.

#### **E. SB 37 COVID19 Education Provisions**

Senator Manning and Senator Fedor introduced SB37 which is like SB358 that was discussed during Lane Duck. This bill will be heard in the Senate Education Committee.

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

##### **1. Broadband and Technology EMIS Report**

Tony informed the committee that he was made aware of an EMIS report that needs to be completed regarding broadband access. The report seeks to collect individual student data related to what type of access each student has at their home including the computer system they are using. Districts are concerned about privacy issues related to the disclosure of that information and worry many will not be able to complete the survey.

#### **E. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.**

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

Please see Legislative update.

##### **2. Calls with Senate Members**

Please see Legislative update.

#### **F. Membership.**

##### **1. Dues Increase**

Tony indicated, with the committee's approval, that he would create a three-year budget using a dues increase of \$500.00. He would be able to share that budget with members at the next meeting in order to determine the impact of the increase as it relates to future budgets.

## **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on February 17, 2021 was made available and the contents of that meeting were reviewed during the Executive Director's report related to the legislative update.

The next meeting is March 17, 2021.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on February 17, 2021 was made available and the contents of that meeting were reviewed during the Executive Director's report related to the legislative update.

The next meeting is March 17, 2021.

## **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 10:36 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021, 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 February 24, 2021.

  
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Jeff Brown, Vice-Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director