

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

April 22, 2020

Chairperson Tom Hosler called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on April 22, 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
Robert Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village School District
John Marschhausen	Hilliard City School District
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
Tim Ackermann	Kings Local School District
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village 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 March 25, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Jeff Brown moved, and Bob Scott seconded the approval of the minutes for March 25, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for March. A copy of the financial report was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Brian Poe moved, and Todd Hoadley seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of March. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. 20/21 FY Budget.**

Tony presented a budget proposal for the 2020-2021 fiscal year for approval. Revenues are based on the Alliance retaining 72 members. He will utilize the reserve fund, transferring \$15,000 to the 20-21 budget, to cover

and maintain organizational functions and absorb a planned increase in the fee for Ice Miller's services. Reductions in cost will be made when possible if memberships decrease.

Chad Hilliker moved, and Bob Hunt seconded the approval of the budget for the 2020–2021 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

**C. OEPI Membership.**

Tony requested feedback from the board for the membership with OEPI and requested approval to pay the membership invoice. Our members agreed to continue membership but seek clarification of how that organization plans to operate next year in terms of reports generated and the nature of what is contained in those reports.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

**Board Discussion.**

Jessica shared the most recent updates related to the actions taken by the state regarding school instructional delivery and operations. The Governor has now officially closed school buildings for the remainder of the school year allowing online, off campus learning until the 2019 - 20 school year ends. The conditions in which schools will need to meet to be able to open for 20 – 21 school year have not yet been determined.

Alliance Executive committee members Todd Hoadley and Paul Imhoff have been selected to participate on calls with the Governor's office, the Ohio Department of Education, and a small group of superintendents in a weekly meeting led by John Richard and Scott Hunt of ODE. Todd and Paul with Superintendents David James of Akron, Doug Morrow of Ashland, Elizabeth Lolli of Dayton, Eric Gordon of Cleveland, Jeff Layton of Northwestern Schools, Joe Chaddock of Stark County ESC, Stephanie Starcher of Fort Frye, and Devin Babcock from the Governor's office have been working to develop guidance on a document that will address a wide range of topics that need to be considered by school districts as they transition back and prepare for the opening of the 20-21 school year.

Todd briefly gave an overview of that groups work which in turn, initiated a broader discussion with the executive committee members regarding guidance related to summer's activities and graduation. District leaders are becoming increasingly frustrated trying to plan for graduation and summer programming without the relevant guidance on how, what and if those activities can be conducted.

Chairman Hosler shared a list of topics and issues that his district has compiled related to what they need to be considering as they plan. Guidance is needed related to the following listed below:

- **Staff**
  - PPE for employees/students
  - Requirements to use social distancing, masks, temperature, etc.
  - Access to school facilities during the summer
  - Concern over Revised Code Section 4167.06
  - Staff meetings
  - Professional development
  - Explore opportunities for staff who cannot be at school due to their own high-risk conditions or those of their family members
  - Testing, Evaluations, and teacher contracts for next year
  - Medical concerns with nurses, distributing medication and separate care centers.
  - What about schools that do not have a nurse or nurse station?
  - Building online curriculum for all classes/ hybrid learning
- **Building Scheduling for 2020-2021 School Year (Schedules - Academics)**
  - CBA review – what is required for bargaining
  - Partial schedule for students i.e., am/pm, or alternating days and/or weeks
  - Special classes that are larger and (PE) exemptions from requirements
  - Learning hybrid schedules: on-line and face to face
  - Flexible hours for next year and graduation requirements

- Repurposing staff (licensing issues) – i.e., if not choir or PE, can we use staff for other purposes? Decision needed sooner than later
- Daily cleaning of the building
- Daily cleaning of cafeteria
- Extra office supplies or cleaning in between use
- **Building Scheduling for 2020-2021 School Year (Operations)**
  - Registering new families over the summer
  - Changing the start date of the school year – move towards minimum hours?
  - Masks, gloves, cleaning supplies, etc. needs and requirements
  - Summer facilities usage
  - Attendance guidance for students whose parents refuse to send them to the buildings
- **Special education good faith effort**
  - Delivery of services in virtual world
  - Compensatory services
  - ESY this summer
  - Parent meeting (IEP)
- **Social Distancing and Transporting Students**
  - Highway patrol to allow plexiglass barrier around drivers & other accommodations
  - Social distancing on a bus – 1 per seat
  - Private school – impractical implications now?
  - Special education considerations
  - Changes in code on bus stop locations
  - Bus stop social distancing
  - safety of drivers, what does a driver do in situations where students do not listen
  - busing non-public students
  - Relief from certain regulations- busing,
- **Financial planning for the financial wave (Part II)**
  - 5-year forecast requirements due in May
  - ODE “fiscal watch, caution, etc.
  - Purchasing additional products
  - Possible extra staff to assist with social distancing
  - Coverage in reference to liability insurance needs
  - Federal funding from the CARES Act, will it be disbursed over a 3-year period
- **ODE and legislative actions**
  - What kind of “guardrails” that the state and ODE provide a common framework for districts are needed?
  - Special classes that are larger and (PE) exemptions from requirements
  - Licensure flexibility – educators outside of their band i.e. looping
  - # of people (groups) per square footage
  - Teacher evaluation – data side
  - Use of volunteers – flexibility CBA
  - Testing system cannot restart
- **Student and Student Well-being**
  - Social distancing students during restrooms use and breaks
  - Rotating students thru halls to attend different classes
  - Sharing of supplies in labs and art rooms
    - Cleaning supplies between classes
  - What classes could be held outside, alternate space in inclement weather
  - Concerns with OSHAA guidelines invite them to speak with the Alliance
  - Concerns with NCAA guidelines
  - What barriers do we have with requirements such as PE? Internet? Student access?
  - How to discipline children that do not follow the guidelines
  - Entering or leaving the building to late/early arrivals

- Students on school grounds after school or mixing before and after dismissal (extra staff)
- Students that walk or get dropped off/picked up
- Cleaning playground equipment distancing on playground
- Alternative to recess
- Medical equipment needs such as thermometers, gloves, and mask
- Checking kids upon arrival for symptoms
- Stopping kids from sharing (supplies, colors, drinks, snacks, etc.)
- OHSAA/NCAA
- **Parents**
  - Parents work needs and ability to be flexible to care for children with a different type school day
  - Keeping in mind how our decisions impact our district, our parents and community and having things work for them as well
  - Parent teacher conferences (parents with no internet or ability to meet in a virtual format)
  - Visitors, guest speakers, volunteers or parents arriving at schools
  - Early pick up or late arrival drop off zones once main door is closed
  - How to take care of spectators at activities
  - Volunteers at events
  - Vendors at events
  - Needing timely responses and guidance for planning and responding to parent concerns
- **General Questions/concerns/request**
  - What will happen if there is a case of COVID-19 at one of the buildings?
  - What if we have a surge of illness again and schools are shut down again?
  - Concern that school will not be the same until there is a vaccine for the virus
  - Concerns with CBA, OEA, unions, AASA relief from IDEA just for the period of the pandemic
  - Learning Gaps that may not show for 2 to 3 years with students
  - Sports issues- permitting certain sports over other sports
  - Concern with each county doing different activities

Concerns were expressed as to what level of flexibility will be afforded by the state and how each district will use that flexibility. While appreciating the need for flexibility on the delivery of instruction, there needs to be more general guidance on health and safety guidelines such as how many students can be bussed at one time or can be in a school classroom. This guidance needs to be specific, so we are all applying the new standards equally. Members agreed that information is needed in a timely manner from the right people around the health components and as much flexibility legislatively as possible because of the diversity of school districts.

Members suggested to develop a list of concerns in which guidance is need and then share those with the Ohio department of Education, the Health Department, or the General Assembly and to reach out to other Education organizations to collaborate efforts in requesting guidance.

Tony shared that the Alliance has reached out to Craig Burford with OESCA and Tom Goodney with the ESC of Central Ohio, both supportive of addressing issues currently. Tony also reached out to Kirk Hamilton with BASA, to work with that organization in conjunction with OESCA.

Tony and Jessica suggested that the COVID-19 committee calls held on Tuesday morning, consisting of over 50 of the Alliance member districts would begin to address issues for feedback and viewpoints.

Jessica mentioned that the General Assembly will be back in early May and the House Economic Recovery Task Force meets remotely daily. House Republicans strive to get people back to work and the Senate is ready to

continue to work on balancing the FY 20 budget and complete by June 30. She and Tony plan to meet with Rep. Jones and Senator Dolan in the upcoming weeks.

### **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for April was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020 if necessary.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for April was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2020 if necessary.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section.

### **NEW BUSINESS**


No business discussed in this section.

### **ADJOURNMENT**


Chairperson Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. location TBD.

### **CERTIFICATE**

I, Tom Hosler, 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 April 22, 2020.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director

Handwritten signature or initials, possibly "L. J. ...".