

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

February 26, 2020

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:35 a.m. on February 26, 2020 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
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Chad Hilliker	Hamilton County ESC
John Marschhausen	Hilliard City School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City Schools
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Michael Zalar	North Olmsted 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, 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 22, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Robert Scott moved and Kathy Powers seconded the approval of the minutes for January 22, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for January. He indicated that the expenditures for the month were in our predicted ranges and categories. However, as we prepare the next budget and determine what our costs are going forward, the costs associated with outside lobbying support and general inflation increases in budget line items may necessitate a need for an increase in membership dues.

Todd Hoadley moved and Kathy Powers seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of January 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 20/21 FY Budget Preparations.

Tony recommended as we prepare the 20/21 budget that we will build out several scenarios related to increasing costs and projected revenue through membership. When we initially contracted with Ice-Miller, we set a flat rate estimating the time commitment that would be necessary. Now that we have two years of data to look at, we will be in a better position to ascertain, along with Ice Miller, the correct monthly fee going forward. That may necessitate a dues increase.

Tony indicated he would create several budget scenarios including one with no dues increase and ones with \$250 and \$500 over several years so that we could see the impact beyond a one-year period like we have done in the past. He also shared that our carryover balance is still within the limits we have set in the past – six months of operating expenses and three months earmarked for special projects at our average monthly spend rate. That will also be factored into our budget deliberations when we meet again in March.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Current Legislative Concerns.

1. EdChoice – Conference Committee Hearings/Next Steps

Jessica updated the committee on the current state of negotiations related to EdChoice following the conference committee hearings held over the last two weeks. Based on the questions from the conference committee members, she shared that it appears that the Senate and House remain far apart in terms of agreeing to each other's proposals, crafting a compromise, arriving at a consensus or determining how best to proceed.

Jessica shared that the Governor, Senate President and House Speaker were scheduled to meet later in the day to discuss EdChoice. Once we know more about the outcome of that meeting, she indicated she would share that with membership.

Jessica also shared that we are continuing to work with senior leadership staff in both the Senate and House to see what may be possible in terms of a solution that would satisfy both chambers. The worry on our part is that both sides will not be able to come up with an agreement and that talks will stall and jeopardize final action being taken by the April 1 deadline. That scenario would potentially expose many of our members to inclusion on the EdChoice building identification list. Reducing or eliminating that list has been our number one goal since November 2019.

In terms of advising districts how best to respond, we have taken the approach of supporting aspects of both the Senate and House proposals. It has been Jessica and Tony's strategy to not "pick sides" and instead the focus has been on working with both chambers to reach a resolution.

Finally, Jessica shared that the House is now in recess and will not be returning until the week of March 23, and the Senate has Session today prior to not returning until the week of March 23. This means the legislature will once again be working under a tight timeline in which a decision will hopefully be made prior to April 1.

2. State Report Card-ODE/ED Organizations/Stakeholder Groups

Tony and Jessica shared they continue to hold meetings with ODE and BASA as well as separate meetings with key stakeholders that have included Ohio Excels, Fordham, Ohio 8, Columbus City, and the Gifted Students association regarding the report card reform. The Alliance and ODE have been represented in both stakeholder working groups and our hope is to come to consensus on as many items as we can, then work with both groups to see if we can arrive at a consensus to a final solution.

Tony presented a revision related to the labeling proposals that have been discussed with the groups and asked members for feedback. The proposal is listed below

State Report Card – Labeling Revision Proposal

Rationale: Structure the report card reporting requirements and the labeling system to correspond and meet the Federal Requirements pertaining to ESSA.

Labeling Recommendation

Structure the labeling criteria around the three tier ESSA system that requires an approach that provides for a meaningful differentiation to occur amongst district and the identification of the bottom 5% of school districts. The following is a proposal that utilizes the federal requirements and terminology and meets the ESSA standard.

Tier 1 Functioning Districts

Status based on adequate achievement scores, without the need for outside support

Can be separated into three categories: Exceeds Expectations

Meets Expectations

Approaching Expectations

Tier 2 Target Districts

Districts that are not making adequate progress in specific sub/group categories in multiple areas.

State provides some support to districts to assist them with addressing subgroup issues in order to improve achievement levels for those subgroups.

Tier 3 Priority Districts

Lowest 5% of districts statewide

Multiple academic needs both in overall measures and subgroup scores

Intensive State Support in terms of resources, personnel and funding. Focus is on improvement strategies and offering support for those districts who have the greatest challenges in terms of socio-economic and diversity characteristics.

(This category of districts could replace the current Academic Distress Commission identification process. Title could be changed to Academic Priority Districts.)

The above approach would meet the ESSA minimum requirements for meaningful differentiation. It would also allow for ODE to focus on the Target and Priority in terms of state support and assistance without simply labeling these districts as failures. This is just one idea of many that have been discussed but the first one focused solely on meeting the federal requirements. In general, the committee agreed this would be a concept worth pursuing further in the discussions we have been having with the two groups.

3. **Property Tax Changes and School Territory Transfers.**

Jessica shared a legislative update regarding the status of SB 89 conference committee and the unrelated EdChoice changes the House added to the bill in early February 2020. One of the amendments the House included in SB 89 relates to the territory transfer change in the budget. We support the House amendment and will work on getting this language passed. The goal is to amend the language, so the proposed repeal of the budget language impacts all local government/townships actions after July 1 of this year.

4. **Graduation Requirements/Implementation -Amendment Clean Up.**

Tony and Jessica shared that she is working on some minor legislative cleanup related to technical changes ODE needs to implement in the HB 166 graduation requirements changes. Tony and Jessica are working with the ODE's legislative team on these legislative amendments. The Department also officially set the cut score for the new competency level for Algebra I and ELA II at 684.

B. ODE/State Board of Education

Next State Board meeting is scheduled for March 9 – 10.

C. Meetings with Key Stakeholders

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

No report at this time.

2 **Sen. Lehner- Senate Education Committee Chair**

No report at this time.

D. Membership

1. **Regional Meetings – Spring Dates**

Tony reminded the group that we will schedule Regional meetings in the Spring after decisions have been made on the changes for EdChoice and The State Report Cards so that we can share the most current information with our members.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on February 7, 2020 was reviewed during the Executive Director's report related to the legislative update. The following meeting scheduled for February 19, 2020 was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on February 19, 2020 relating to the changes for the State Report Card were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2020.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

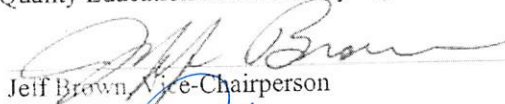
Paul Imhoff asked what plans districts may be making to deal with the recent information related to the Coronavirus and the possibility for the closing of schools related to an outbreak. Members shared that they were resurrecting the plans they had in place when the H1N1 virus situation was occurring as well as how best to deal with missed time regarding student programming.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

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 26, 2020.


Jeff Brown, Vice-Chairperson


Tony Podojil, Executive Director