

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

January 22, 2020

Chairperson Tom Hosler called to order a regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:35 a.m. on January 22, 2020 in the BASA Large 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
Robert Hunt	Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District(proxy)
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village School District
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District (proxy)
Tim Ackermann	Kings Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City Schools
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Michael Zalar	North Olmsted City School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District(proxy)
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington City School District (proxy)
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District(proxy)
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 October 23, 2019, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Robert Scott moved and Michael Zalar seconded the approval of the minutes for October 23, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for October, November and December. He indicated that the budget continues to be on target as we moved into the second half of the fiscal year. He also pointed out the final cost associated with the annual conference, including the charge for additional space for over 400 members, treasurers, and board members to attend was approximately \$2,000.00. Ice/Miller had provided a donation that helped to defer the costs associated with the room rental and with a small increased fee to participate the Alliance was able to stay within its budget range.

Members appeared to be pleased with the additional space provided by the hotel allowing us to add tables and seating. There is room for some additional growth in the future.

Scot Prebles moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the months of October, November and December 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. State Audit.**

Tony Podojil stated the Auditor of State had completed the Alliance's audit for the year ended June 30, 2019. The audit is to a Limited Agreed Upon Procedures Audit and based on the report, there were no findings or recommendations to implement.

**C. 20/21 FY Budget Preparations.**

Tony mentioned the need to upgrade our portable technology (iPad) due to the age of the technology and the inability to update the device. He indicated that he is anticipating a future technology equipment purchase sometime during this budget year. In terms of revenue, our current membership numbers at the current dues level are meeting the needs of the organization at a break even level.

As we prepare the 20/21 budget, we will need to determine what our costs project going forward in terms of outside lobbying support from Ice-Miller and increases associated with personnel expenses within the organization. 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.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Current Legislative Concerns.**

**1. EdChoice.**

Tony and Jessica provided the committee with an update on the status of legislative conversations regarding possible amendments related to the EdChoice Program. Jessica discussed the January timeline in which the General Assembly is operating under prior to the February 1st EdChoice Scholarship application window opening. She indicated that there have been conversations in both the House and the Senate regarding what changes could be made and what legislative vehicle to use.

In terms of the actual timeline, the Senate may be considering using HB9, a bill that is pending in the Senate Higher Education Committee, to add an amendment to that piece of legislation. That committee is scheduled to meet today at 11:30 so a direction become clearer in the Senate later this afternoon. Regardless, the House will need to take up the issue once the Senate approves an amendment in order to avoid the February 1 application deadline. In addition, as was stated earlier, this will need to pass as an emergency measure which may be problematic in the House.

Legislators are still considering changes related to the criteria used to identify buildings as EdChoice eligible, the criteria by which high school students become eligible for scholarships and the poverty percentage to be used to qualify students based on the poverty/income criteria. Senator Huffman and Senator Dolan have been the key members in the Seante in terms of behind the scenes discussions with the caucus and Senator Dolon is the only one to actually craft legislation. Senator Dolan's proposal, while similar to Senator Huffman, goes farther in regards to limiting the manner in which buildings are identified for the Ed Choice program.

In terms of specific changes related to Senator Dolon's proposal, he is advocating for changing the criteria for building eligibility to include only buildings graded "F" with some "C" and "D" buildings qualifying based on achieved criteria (lowest 10% of PI statewide). There appears to be general agreement by both parties that the high school student eligibility criteria needs to be returned to the original rules which required students to be enrolled in their district high school for at least one year before qualifying for a scholarship. There is a wide range of opinions on whether the poverty level percentage should be raised at all and if so, at what amount.

The information we provided membership in our email sent out on January 8th included several talking points. The committee agreed that those should remain our current position with the exception of the change made to building eligibility offered in the Dolan proposal.

## **Talking Points and Legislative Recommendations**

Eliminate the K-3 Literacy Component grade as one of the criteria used for identifying school buildings on the EdChoice list. (This is consistent with OSBA/OASBO/BASA recommendation).

For purposes of identifying school buildings on the EdChoice list for the 2020-21 school year, only use overall building letter grades for the last two report card years. Specifically, only building that received an overall building letter grade of "F" on the 2017-18 and 2018-19 of Report Card would be on the EdChoice list for the 2020-21 school year.

Reverse the HB 166 state budget language that extended scholarship eligibility to residents/non-public students of High School students. Specifically, require high school students to attend a public school in the year prior to applying for an EdChoice scholarship. (This is consistent with OSBA/OASBO/BASA recommendation).

Keep the current level to identify poverty eligibility at 200%.

Jessica indicated that as soon as we get a solid direction on where the General Assembly is going to land on this we would contact and update members of the executive committee and then the overall membership.

In addition, the committee discussed how best to coordinate our efforts with the education organizations on supporting a final fix to this current problem. While the organizations have expressed a desire to seek a total repeal of the ed choice program as their primary position, the timing and urgency related to this issue will probably not lend itself to pushing for that solution at this time. It would appear we will need to continue to refine a short-term fix that alleviates the current situation to the best of our abilities while planning with the organizations a long range strategy related to the ed choice program.

### **2. State Report Card.**

Tony and Jessica shared they have had several meetings with ODE, BASA as well as separate meetings with key stakeholders that have included Ohio Excels, Fordham, Ohio 8, Columbus City, and the gifted lobby. ODE has represented in both groups and our hope is to come to consensus on as many items as we can and then work with the both groups to see if we can arrive at a consensus to a final solution. They shared a memo from BASA that was sent to the Legislative School Report Card Committee Members that included recommendations for changes based on achievement, value-added, gap closing, graduation rate, K-3 literacy, prepared for success, and letter grades discussing the issue and recommendations addressing the issues.

Overall, the goal is to get a report card bill introduced during the first quarter of 2020 and hopefully passed by July 2020. The Accountability committee is working on providing feedback so that we can refine the parameters for the organization as we work with the above groups.

### **3. School Territory Transfers.**

Jessica shared that she has reached out to the Education organizations in order to develop a plan whereby we can work together on advancing a legislative fix to the issues related to the changes made to the school territory transfer process. We are anticipating that this will be taken up as soon as the Ed Choice issued is resolved.

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

Tony shared that he is working with the Ohio Department of Education on the technical wording corrections related to changes made to the Graduation Requirements. It looks like we have agreement on one of the issues raised regarding where the Seals need to be located. We have a tentative agreement that the Seal can be on the transcript or per district decision, on both the transcript and the student's diploma.

5. **SB221 (Sen. Dolan) STRONG Ohio bill and timeline for testimony.**

Tony and Jessica have spoken to both Senator Dolan and representatives in the Governor's office related to how we can help support the bill in the area of school safety. The hearings for this bill have been moved to after the March Primary.

**B. ODE/State Board of Education**

1. **Report Card Changes**

See discussion above.

**C. Meetings with Key Stakeholders**

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

Discussions with Chairman Jones have revolved around the Ed Choice issue and State Report Cards.

2. **Sen. Dolan- Senate Finance Committee Chair**

We have had several discussions with Senator Dolan as he has been developing his amendment related to Ed Choice.

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

No report at this time.

**D. Membership**

1. **Regional Meetings – Spring Dates**

Tony informed 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 January 8, 2020 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 scheduled for February 5, 2020.

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on January 8, 2020 relating to the changes for the State Report Card were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2020.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 1. Annual Meeting - Feedback

Tony informed the group feedback on the meeting and luncheon was excellent. We have requested that Hilton reserve the additional space each year moving forward, which will allow us the option to add seating capacity for 450 guests.

### NEW BUSINESS

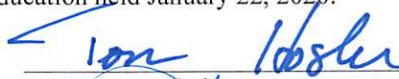
No business discussed in this section.

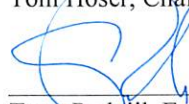
### ADJOURNMENT

Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA.

### 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 January 22, 2020.

  
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Tom Hosler, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director

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