

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

January 27, 2021

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 January 27, 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
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
Steve Estep	Mariemont City 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 October 28, 2020 and November 6, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Mike Zalar moved, and Todd Hoadley seconded the approval of the minutes for October 28, 2020 and November 6, 2020. 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 revenue for this year is now based on 72 members. Nordonia Hills dropped this year, due to financial reasons, but we anticipate Oberlin will be joining.

The budget continues to be on target as we move into the second half of the fiscal year because our expenses are tracking at the expected levels and are lower in some cases due to COVID. The Annual meeting was held via Zoom so there is no income or expense to show on this year's budget. Also received on this year's budget was OESCA's final payment for last year's contracted services.

Tony recommended, as we prepare the 2021/22 budget, that the committee consider the impact a dues increase would have on future budgets. Tony indicated he would create two budget scenarios including one with an increase to \$3,750.00 and one with an increase to \$4,000.00. He reminded the board that Ice Miller is on a one year roll over and last year increased the fee by \$500.00 per month for services provided by Jessica.

Tony requested feedback from the committee for the membership with OEPI and requested approval to pay the membership invoice. Our members agreed to continue membership.

Each copy of the financial reports was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Coronavirus Update- Second Semester Opening, Quarantines, and Teacher Vaccinations

Tony shared the concerns that were raised during our calls with members related to teacher vaccinations, this year's graduation concerns, and the new quarantine rules from the governor's office. The local health departments have issued different guidelines of how the vaccine will be distributed to the teachers and staff. Plans vary from districts going to different locations in their community to get the vaccine at the same time on the same day, others must go to the same location between certain hours, other districts are able to hold clinics at a school site on a specific day while other districts are being told that the teachers will get the vaccine at the same time the public receives it.

The districts recognize that a more centralized and standardized approach would be helpful in terms of working with their communities, teachers, and staff but, are still appreciative that the Governor's office made schools a priority to receive the vaccine so that we could reopen to students.

Tony informed the committee that he is working with ODE about securing the same level of flexibility for this year's graduation requirements that we had last year. Districts voiced they would like to continue with that flexibility so that they can begin to inform families and have time to plan and prepare to meet graduation guidelines. Districts would like to have as much information on this as soon as possible since they are already having those conversations with students.

Jessica stated flexibility is also being addressed by the legislature, as well as extending HB197 which included testing and the remote learning options. ODE may not be able to request waivers for testing except for students that are not able to come into the school and students with medical reasons. Under the Biden administration, districts may get relief from administering tests, but it is still early in the transition process at the federal level to make that determination at this time.

HB409 passing allowed for State report card flexibility regarding grades not being based on the tests for next year which helps with the state report card reform. Jessica will update members on what is politically possible on testing and graduation at our next meeting.

B. Legislative Update

The Senate has officially announced their committee chairs, vice-chairs, ranking members and committee members. The Education committee is planning their first hearing during the week of

February 1st. The House assignments will be made by the end of this week following their retreat. Jessica will update once she knows more information on the House side and committee decisions are complete.

Senate Education Committee:

Senator Andrew Brenner (Powell) is the Chair of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Senator Bill Blessing is the Vice-Chair and Senator Fedor is a Ranking Member. There are a few new members on the committee, Senator Michael Rulli (Youngstown), and incoming Senator Sandra O'Brien (Mahoney County). Senator Stephen Huffman, Senator Vernon Sykes will continue to be members of the Committee.

Senate Finance Committee:

Senator Matt Dolan is the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Theresa Gavarone is the Vice-Chair and Senator Vernon Sykes (Akron) is a Ranking Member.

1. Lame Duck Recap

Jessica sent an update out to members on January 12, 2021, which summarized what was passed during Lame Duck, which concluded on December 23rd.

A. School Funding Formula and Next Steps

While the goal is to have an operational school funding formula by the start of FY2022, the challenge will be meshing the Governor's budget with a version of HB305 that should be passed out of the House and whatever version that the Senate, under Senator Blessing's leadership develops.

B. SB310 School Funding Studies

SB310 Capital Appropriations was signed and went into effect on December 30, 2020. This bill was used as a vehicle to extend the window for when districts can use CARES ACT funds and temporarily eliminated the spending limitations on student activity programs. Included HB305's school funding study provisions and gave ODE \$3M to conduct school studies by March.

2. FY22/FY23 Biennial Budget Issues and Timeline

Jessica will update members as we move toward the Biennial Budget which the Governor must introduce by February 1st. Once the budget is introduced, we expect to see the budget numbers first and then the language related to policy information later in the week.

The Governor's budget is expected to see some continuation of our current "frozen" formula with student success and wellness fees to be funded outside of that formula as proposed in the last biennium budget.

The House still wants to pass some version of HB305 in this new session and will likely introduce it as a priority bill. The Senate is working on their own school funding formula proposal which President Huffman has asked Senator Blessing to take the lead on. If there is a stand-alone bill introduced in the Senate, hearings will probably start at the same time the House has their hearings on the budget.

A. Report Card Reform

Jessica updated members on the status related to the state report card reform process. Jessica and Tony continue to work with Senator Blessing, Senator Brenner, BASA, OASBO, OSBA and ODE in meetings that have restarted since the delay due to COVID. In addition, Tony and Jessica have continued to meet with representatives from Ohio Excels, the Ohio 8, Fordham,

Columbus City, and the Gifted Student Association discussing and attempting to formulate a consensus around potential state report card reform.

Feedback was elicited from the accountability committee regarding what should be considered if an overall ranking system is designed. By in large, members would like to move away from the current grading system and to a narrative or descriptive approach. That committee will be meeting in February to continue that discussion.

C. ODE/State Board of Education

1. Leadership and Focus for 2021

The State Board of Education met last week and re-elected Laura Kohler president of the board and Charlotte McGuire vice-president. There are 6 new members which Jessica will update our members on later this week.

D. 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.

E. Membership.

1. Quality Profile- Released January 15, 2021

The release of this year's Quality Profile was on January 15th. Over 85 districts participated this year.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on January 20, 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 February 17, 2021.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on January 20, 2021 relating to the unresolved issues for the State Report Card Revision process were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is February 17, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

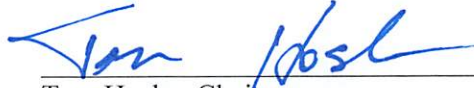
No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom Conference Invite.

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 27, 2021.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director

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