

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

July 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 July 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:

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Bob Hunt       | Chagrin Falls Exempted Village School District |
| Brian Poe      | Copley-Fairlawn City Schools                   |
| Chad Hilliker  | ESC of Hamilton County                         |
| Nancy Santilli | Kenston Local School District                  |
| Tim Ackermann  | Kings Local School District                    |
| Steve Estepp   | Mariemont City School District                 |
| William Porter | Mentor Exempted Village School District        |
| Fred Bolden    | Solon City School District (Proxy)             |
| Kathryn Powers | Twinsburg City School District                 |
| Paul Imhoff    | Upper Arlington (proxy)                        |
| 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 June 24, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Trent Bowers moved, and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the minutes for June 24, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for June. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget finished within our targets for the year resulting in a \$15,000.00 difference which will be carried over in the 20-21 budget.

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

Trent Bowers moved, and Rob O'Leary seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of June. The motion passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

#### **1. ODE – Remote Learning Guidance**

The Remote Learning Attendance Guidance was released and was sent to members through email.

#### **2. Planning for 2020-21 School Year Health Guidelines**

Tony stated the COVID committee calls held weekly on Tuesday for all Alliance members has continued to bring several concerns that need to be thought about or need to have clarity for the 2020-21 school year. A list of some of those concerns have been listed below:

- Should we go face to face? If so for how many days?
- How do we use the coding system?
- What happens if we go fully remote and for how long?
- What triggers hybrid?
- What gets us out of fully remote?
- Staffing issues are a daily concern, what do we do if we are not fully staffed on any given day because teachers or bus drivers call off at short notice?
- How do districts explain to their community the remote learning decision when districts closest to them are in school full-time?
- How, when, and where do they isolate children/staff that may become ill during the school day?
- How do teachers reach students that do not have laptops or internet ability for the year?
- If we open, how should we handle sports when a coach or player test positive? Are we to isolate everyone that had contact?
- How can we get our local departments to work with us when it comes to students that may suffer abuse?

There are several concerns that the districts must consider, such as the following:

- Social development of the child while maintaining social distance requirements
- Space
- Capacity
- Storage needs for unused furniture
- Clarity on how to handle exposure and positive cases
- Staffing the classrooms, (some teachers already have medical excuses to remain home, others may have to stay home to care for their own children)
- Pushing the school start date back from Board member and or parent pressure
- Depending on the community Superintendents are getting feedback from the parents to either open completely or remain closed.

Superintendents are concerned that there has been a problem getting a consensus around which direction to follow and with the advice of Board members, conflicting expertise of local physicians, differences of opinions in the community and parents already complaining about the mixed messages in reference to contact sports vs. classroom social distancing. Superintendents are trying to put into place the required social distance rules and guidelines provided to them. Another difficulty comes with informing the community on a daily or weekly basis of immediate changes due to the number of rising cases of COVID in the district, or an exposure or positive tested student or teacher. Parents with special needs and younger students are adding pressure in some districts to keep the school open daily. Districts have reached out to the local health departments, child service departments, and other local authorities to get advice or to request wellness checks.

### **B. Current Legislative Update.**

#### **1. Legislative Priorities (Furlough authority, likely FY21 funding formula cuts, state testing**

## **waiver, Report Card Reform and EdChoice)**

Tony asked the members to think about several questions that have been brought up in other meetings so that they can be addressed at our next committee meeting held in August. Those are listed below:

- What will the state report card look like next year?
- How will assessments be done?
- Should there be a transition report card?
- Are we still doing Quality Profiles for this year?

### **2. Next steps? Fall Return of General Assembly and Lame Duck Session**

Jessica informed members due to the situation involving House Speaker Larry Householder, we are not sure how this will impact the work of the House and/or the speaker leadership team. Mr. Householder has stated he will not resign.

We are not able to provide clarity on the Legislative calendar for the rest of 2020. This will not only affect the remainder of this year but essentially what we were anticipating over the next biennium.

As the Senate and House have updated information Jessica will keep members posted.

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

### **1. Preschool Emergency Rules**

There have not been any updates released related to the preschool issues discussed earlier. Jessica will send out updates as she receives them.

### **2. Transportation Guidance**

Tony spoke to Scott Hunt who stated that it will be the districts responsibility to follow the current rules and guidelines in terms of transporting parochial, charter and private schools. If your district is closed but private/parochial schools are open, districts may still have to provide transportation for the schools that are open. Districts have expressed a concern about private/parochial schools communicating health concerns related to their students who would be using bus transportation.

### **3. CARES Funding**

Districts were sent a spreadsheet containing information on the additional fund distributions based on the CARES Act which those funds are to cover PPE supplies.

## **D. Meetings with Key Stakeholders – Outreach this Summer**

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

Please see Legislative update

### **2. Sen. Lehner—Senate Education Committee Chair**

Please see Legislative update

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

We have restarted our conversations again with ODE/Ohio 8/Ohio Excels and Fordham regarding the work we had started on report card reform. Those meetings will continue within the next two weeks and will include both a discussion of how we deal with this year as well as long term reforms.

## **E. Alliance COVID 19 Meetings**

1. 6/23, 7/7, 7/14, 7/21

We continue to have these calls every Tuesday, members ask questions and give feedback on these calls that has been very helpful with talking with stakeholders.

**F. Membership**

**1. Dues Notice Sent for 20-21 SY**

We are currently receiving payments.

**LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for July was postponed.  
The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for July was postponed.  
The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

**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 August 19, 2020, 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 July 22, 2020.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director

10/12/2012