

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

March 25, 2020

Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil called to order a conference call meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on March 25, 2020. The Executive Committee met by conference call due to the closing of schools based on health concerns related to the spread of Coronavirus.

Those members in attendance on the call 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
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village School District
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
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
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City Schools

Also, on the call Chairperson Tom Hosler and Legislative Consultant Jessica Voltolini.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from February 26, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Mike Zalar moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the minutes for February 26, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

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

Bob Hunt moved and Bob Scott seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of February 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 20/21 FY Budget Preparations.

Tony recommended that with the current situation at hand, the Alliance should postpone any request for an increase in membership dues for next year. With the current situation certainly impacting state revenues in a negative manner, the possibility of school funding reductions for the districts is real. He would build budget projections making reductions were possible and, if needed, utilize the Alliance reserve fund to cover any shortfalls. He shared that he would work on the 20-21 budget based on the above and share that with the committee during our April meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Coronavirus Update – Current Status.

1. **Conference Calls with Members**

Jessica informed the committee that she and Tony have worked to keep the full membership updated through various emails and has held two conference calls to date. Attorneys from Scott Scriven have been on the calls to help answer frequently asked legal questions arising from the closing of school and the impact of COVID-19. Feedback on the email sharing and the calls has been positive. We are planning to continue with the calls in the coming weeks addressing requests from members for information and legal clarifications on specific topics.

B. Current Legislative Concerns- What's Next?

Jessica stated that General Assembly was meeting today and were expected to address several critical areas related to the Primary Election, state testing, report card, graduation flexibility for this year's graduating seniors, and Ed Choice. The list of the topics to be considered was shared and is included in the minutes. She indicated that she will be updating Alliance members via email later tonight once the Senate and House have held Session and passed HB197. (See list included with minutes).

In addition to the legislative update, committee members had several questions related to issues and concerns they were addressing. Those questions and responses are included below:

Do we know if the state is going to hold us to instructional hours?

We need to see what the legislative language says about what will be required for the end of the school year.

Are districts that are 100% online for instruction who have disadvantaged students that may not be getting a quality education, even though teachers are doing their best, is there any thought about additional funding for Summer programs so that students can catch up before the next school year ?

We believe people are talking about that however there has not been a decision yet. State is hoping additional Federal funds may be available.

Has there been a definitive date when districts can end the 2020 school year?

This has been discussed but still has not been answered.

Can we stress to the Governor's office that the school districts need flexibility as well as small business?

Tony and Jessica are asking about end dates and begin dates and how to help the kids with flexible action in bringing them back to school once buildings re-open.

Teacher Evaluations, can we address how tenure and non-renewals will be handled?

There will be flexibility around evaluations, but we do not have legislative language yet referencing teacher evaluations. We had a call yesterday that addressed this issue. The attorney's suggested that if you know a teacher that you are not going to renew to focus on those evaluations. The remainder could be postponed until a later date. Jessica will send out the legislative language once it is addressed.

Any news about the property transfer bill?

The only things being covered today are the COVID-19 response issues all other things pending will be addressed when legislation comes back in May.

Spring Sports stipends? What is happening in other schools dealing with paying?

Some schools are paying full supplementals. Information on this should be coming out of the auditor's office. The Alliance will ask this question when they meet with the auditor.

How do we handle wage increases that have just been approved for over the next 3 years? We do not believe that we will have the same funds moving forward.

I would reach out to the district attorneys for advice on this topic.

1. Ed Choice-Conference Committee Hearings/Next Steps

Jessica stated we are anticipating based on conversations with several Senators that they will freeze in place thereby reverting to the original list of identified schools in effective for the 2019-20 school year. The freeze will run through April 2021 which will mean at some point, we will be lobbying again for a permanent fix regarding this issue. We anticipate the HB9 Conference Committee and SB89 Conference Committee (yet to be identified) will pick up the EdChoice voucher issue later this Spring/early Summer.

2. ODE/Ed Organizations/Stakeholder Groups

Jessica and Tony have been on COVID-19 weekly calls, Mondays at 4pm, with ODE, the Governor's office and all the education stakeholders receiving updates and asking questions of Paolo and the department. Jessica is anticipating school closure to be extended past April 6th due to the coronavirus health concerns but we are not aware as of yet, what that will look like in terms of an executive order from the Governor.

3. Property Tax Changes and School Territory Transfers.

See Above

4. Graduation Requirements/Implementation -Amendment Clean Up

We are anticipating that there will be some legislative direction on how graduation is impacted for this year's students included in the legislation being considered today.

C. ODE/State Board of Education

April's State Board meeting has been cancelled.

D. 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.

E. Membership

1. **Regional Meetings – Postponed**

Tony reminded the group that we will postpone Regional meetings due to the Stay at home order from the Governor's office.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The meeting scheduled for March was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2020 if necessary.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on March 11, 2020 were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2020 if necessary.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

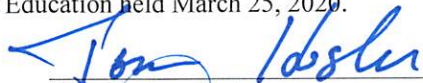
Tony shared his thoughts regarding our advocating for an official date to close the 2020 school year. This would allow for all districts to plan for a structured ending, close the year and begin to plan for next year. This would then allow districts to use strategies for specific student populations in order to address academic recovery efforts. As an example, time during the summer can be used for special need students, early primary students needing reading recovery time and career tech students who could complete required program and credentialing guidelines. He will put together a white paper for the committee to review and offer suggestions and revisions.

ADJOURNMENT


Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. at BASA, or earlier if needed/ requested.

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 March 25, 2020.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director

Amended Substitute House Bill 197 Senate Floor (Omnibus Amendment) Summary

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1. Amends emergency clause already in the bill and makes applicable to every provision of the bill. In order to continue essential operations of state government, maintain the continuity of the state tax code and to respond to the declared pandemic and global health emergency related to COVID-19
2. Prohibits public water disconnections during the pandemic since they are not governed by PUCO non disconnect orders (see note)
3. Suspends the staff to child ratio requirements and maximum group sizes at childcare centers (see note)
4. Exempts schools and other entities from food processing requirements to allow for continued student meal delivery (see note)
5. Extends the validity of licenses issued by state agencies and political subdivisions and provides a 90-day window for renewal. Still allows for disciplinary actions during this time (see note)
6. Permits state boards & commissions, local & county governments, and higher education boards to operate meetings electronically so long as the public is aware and can participate electronically (see note)
7. Allows recently retired state employees to be rehired. This is limited to the following agencies: DRC, DYS, MHA, DVS and DDD (see note)
8. \$20M (non-GRF) fund shift for DAS operation of state agency capital facility projects. Money to be repaid after upcoming bond sale.
9. Gives the Director of Medicaid additional flexibility to support the health care workforce and providers during this time of crisis. Additional program flexibility is necessary to avoid a significant workforce shortage and patient provider access shortages at the end of the COVID-19 emergency. Drafted for future cases up to 6 months. Temporary provision expires December 1, 2020.
10. Permits school districts, STEM schools, and community schools other than e-schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to use distance learning to make up for any missed days or hours of instruction caused by the ordered closure of Ohio schools
11. Allows licensed special education providers to utilize tele-health and electronic communication methods to serve students who are receiving special education services through their school district or through the Autism Scholarship or Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarships (see note)
12. Waives state testing and report cards for the 2019-2020 school year & creates a safe harbor from sanctions for schools; permits seniors to graduate if school determines on track to do so prior to the COVID-19 emergency; local school determine promotion for Third-Grade Reading Guarantee; makes evaluations permissive and prohibits the use of value-added data; excludes academic performance data from being used in sponsor ratings this year; allows Chancellor and State Supt to waive College Credit Plus timelines/requirements during the COVID-19 emergency
13. Limits the number of Ed Choice designated school buildings for the 2020-21 school year to those buildings previously eligible in the 2019-20 school year; allows siblings of current scholarship recipients,

incoming Kindergarten students, and rising high school students to receive a performance-based scholarship for the 2020-21 school year if the building they attend or would attend meets these criteria

14. Allows JFS to continue making payments to publicly funded childcare providers during the emergency – all this is done within existing appropriations - and is done to maintain the system so it may quickly return to full operation

15. Codifies the governor’s executive order relative to Unemployment Compensation. (see note)

a. Waives first week waiting period

b. Changes eligibility to include COVID-19 related unemployment situations

c. Waives work search requirement

16. Makes several changes, all due to Feds moving the tax filing deadline from April 15th to July 15th

a. Extends date for estimated payments

b. Waives interest payments (penalties already able to be waived)

c. Not withstands the “20-day rule” under municipal income tax for employees working from home during the health emergency plus 30 days

d. Extends due date of the state-administered municipal net profit tax

17. Temporary law that tolls statute of limitations for criminal & civil cases and administrative acts that would expire between March 9th and July 30th, 2020.

18. Allows public retirement system boards to delay board member elections until December 1, 2020. This applies to OPERS, OP&F, STRS, SERS, OSHP

19. Provides an extra 45 days for a county central committee to fill a vacancy. Current law is 45 days. This is temp law change and not permanent law

20. Allows the Auditor of State to waive certain requirements regarding procedure audits if the audit period overlaps this health emergency

21. Delays the requirement that childcare centers participate in Step Up to Quality in order to receive public funding from July 1, 2020 to September 1, 2020

22. Allows Ohio Public Works Commission, Ohio Water Development Authority and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to waive penalties and fees from outstanding loans and provides for additional flexibilities. Temporary provision expires December 1, 2020.

23. Specifies that all county offices required to transfer property and process titles that aren’t made available online must remain open. Suspends a provision of law regarding liability of a county recorder for failure to perform certain duties

24. Allows a transfer (subject to controlling board) from the BSF in order to balance the FY 20 books. Additionally, requires at least 2 votes from each chamber to approve such a request

25. Grants certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), under certain conditions, the authority to perform additional duties or services related to anesthesia care, including ordering and administering drugs and IV fluids, ordering diagnostic tests and directing nurses to administer drugs. This is a permanent law change

26. Allows for recent nursing graduates to obtain a temporary license to practice prior to passing the licensure examination. Temporary licenses expire either 90 days after the duration of the COVID-19 emergency or 90 days after December 1, 2020, whichever comes sooner.

27. Extends absentee voting by mail for the March 17, 2020 primary election to April 28, 2020, authorizes \$7.0M (from Emergency purposes fund) to pay associated costs

28. Adds a severability clause for the provisions of the bill

*** Several items above contain a provision sun-setting the amendment to the earlier of Dec. 1, 2020 or the rescission of the Governor's March 9th Executive order and are noted accordingly with (see note)