

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

March 24, 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 March 24, 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
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
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
William Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Mike Zalar	North Olmsted 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 February 2021 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Mike Zalar moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for February 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report.**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for February. He indicated that expenditures remain on target. He mentioned that OSBA is planning to hold an in-person conference this year, if so, the Alliance will hold the annual luncheon which will need to be put back into the budget.

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

Jeff Brown moved, and Scott Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of February. The motion passed unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Coronavirus Update- Extended Learning Plans, Remote Learning

We are still waiting to see what ODE is planning in terms of guidance regarding remote-learning plans for next school year. ODE is working on a status report that should help with providing guidance around what we can do now, and they are also working on extending the provisions from HB164 from last year.

### B. Legislative Update

#### 1. SB111 – Disbursement of Federal Funding of ESSR2

There have been amendments proposed in Senate Finance Committee today related to the disbursement of ESSR funds. Jessica and Tony have scheduled calls with Senator Dolan to discuss what these changes might entail and potential impacts. Some concerns are with putting a freeze on ODE authority to be able to disburse funds. Both the House and Senate are taking a close look at how these funds will be spent.

Jessica will be updating members as soon as possible on this issue.

#### 2. HB 110 (FY22-FY23 Biennial Budget)

- A. FAFSA Completion – Graduation
- B. Transportation Rule Changes
- C. Computer Technology Course Requirement
- D. Citizenship/American History Seal Change
- E. Fair School Funding Formula

Tony and Jessica continue to meet with the House leadership alerting them to some of the concerns with policy changes that have been proposed by the Governor. The language modifying the requirements for the transportation of students to private/community schools is potentially problematic.

There is language related to a new Computer Science Education requirement for high school students in the bill. Computer Science requires schools to give students access for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. A working group will decide on state-wide requirements.

There has been concern expressed around provisions in the bill related to FAFSA completion which will require K-12 school districts make FAFSA completion a requirement for graduation.

Once the budget moves out of the House and on to the Senate, we anticipate the Senate will address the school funding formula during their budget deliberations. The House will continue to work on the budget through the month and is scheduled to vote the budget out of the House on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Jessica will have more budget updates for everyone relating to language as it becomes available and will send a summary out to all members.

#### 3. Bills we are working on:

##### A. HB 100-State Report Card Reform.

There are two competing report card bills, HB200 and one in the Senate which is being dropped next week (SB145) with testimony to be given next Wednesday. Jessica and Tony had a meeting

with Rep. Jones to discuss HB200 last Tuesday, and what the next steps will be in terms of scheduling testimony after spring break. There are many components of HB200 that the Alliance members support. Both HB 200 and the Senate version address many of the priorities that we have been working on with the other educational organizations that we set out to achieve when we first started this process, but both have some drawbacks that need to be addressed.

The goal will be to provide testimony as a proponent to both bills once hearings begin but also point out those areas that we would like to see changed. For example, there will need to be more discussion on the change to using descriptions vs grades on the overall report card. The Literacy component in HB200 does not match what is in the Senate version and we would still like the Prepared for Success section be a report only.

The goal is to get both bills out and hold hearings, identify areas of agreement and disagreement, and then sit down and try to craft a final version. If all goes as planned, this could be added to the budget bill and then passed in July. If not, we may be missing a golden opportunity to get significant reform accomplished related to the report card.

#### **B. SB 1 Financial Literacy- Financial Literacy Credit Requirement.**

Senator Wilson's bill requires teaching a required .5 elective credit on finance at the high school level, beginning with the 2020/21 school year.

Jessica will keep members posted on the progress of this bill and the need to connect with their representatives in terms of expressing their concerns with the bill.

#### **C. HB 67/SB37 Waive State Testing Requirements/Graduation Rule**

HB 67 was signed by Governor DeWine on March 20, 2021. This bill is now effective with testing and graduation flexibility for this Spring. The bill had several final amendments added in the Senate Education Committee including a provision to allow students to graduate under the state minimum course requirement with the completion of the Ohio Means Job Readiness Seal.

Once Jessica gets the final version of the bill, she will send it out to members.

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

##### **1. Remote Learning Guidance**

Tony informed the committee that he has had several conversations with ODE regarding the guidance needed. Paolo is aware of the requested guidance and is working on getting that out to everyone. Tony has another call scheduled for this week.

#### **D. Meetings with Key Stakeholders.**

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

Please see Legislative update.

##### **2. Rep. Jones – HB100**

Please see Legislative update.

**E. Membership.**

**1. Dues Increase/Budget Impact**

Tony will give a final budget in April showing the \$500.00 increase. With the committee's approval, in April, we will be able to get the dues invoices out to members with the \$4,000.00 amount. Then we can do the final budget approval in May.

**LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on March 17, 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 April 21, 2021.

**ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on March 17, 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 April 21, 2021.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Media Release**

Sending a media release to thank the Governor, ESCs and other organizations that helped to get the vaccine out as a priority to school staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 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 March 24, 2021.

  
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Tom Hosler, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director

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