

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

October 28, 2020

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on October 28, 2020. 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 School District
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
Todd Hoadley	Dublin City Schools
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
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, 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 September 23, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Fred Bolden moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for September 23, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for September. He mentioned dues payments have all been received with only one member dropping due to financial hardship. He has one new member possibility. We are on track in the first quarter with expenses being lower due to COVID.

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

Todd Hoadley moved, and Kathy Powers seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of September. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Coronavirus Update

Tony shared the concerns that were raised during our calls with members related to second semester and getting additional students back into the buildings for in class instruction. There is pressure coming from communities for schools to not only remain open but conversely, to close because of the current level of spread. The rumors related to the Governor deciding to close schools again has been dispelled. We continue to talk with the Governor's office as it relates to changes to Tracing and quarantining of students. School districts are doing a great job keeping the students safe however, the community is driving the issues around the spread of COVID among students and parents.

The Governor continues to emphasize the need for the public to wear masks, social distance, avoid gatherings, etc. so that people can go remaining working and students can go to school. Schools will maintain local as they work with their local health departments to decide if they should stay open or close.

B. Tracing and Quarantine of Students and Staff

Districts that are in areas that are moving to "Purple" have concerns about how they maintain in class instruction when the definition at this level is indicating a shelter in place approach. It appears that the recommendations and advice we are getting from some local health departments conflicts with that definition.

Jessica is continuing conversations with the Governor's office based on district concerns for issues related to students being in quarantine or exposed.

C. Second Semester Planning

Parents are beginning to request that their students return from virtual learning to in class instruction for the second semester. Maintaining the appropriate social distancing protocols in terms of space and staffing is a concern. The Governor is starting to have regular calls with the County Health Departments and Commissioners to see what can be done in each county. School Districts should reach out to the health department and Commissioners to voice concerns and stay connected. Districts are having concerns when neighboring districts change their status and parents begin comparing the two districts.

D. Current Legislative Update.

Jessica has been working with OSBA, BASA and OASBO on a survey for the distribution of the remaining CARES ACT Funding. The data from the survey will be used to communicate with the Governor's office the needs districts have how these funds should be distributed.

There has been some confusion in terms of how districts are spending down the funds and whether additional funds are needed. The spend down provisions for schools has been a slow and laborious process based on when product and services have been received. Some districts are still waiting on items ordered.

This survey is important to explain how the schools are spending the funds and why the schools need more funding. Some districts may need emergency funding due to the budget cuts experienced this year and last that have forced them into fiscal watch.

1. HB305- School Funding Formula

Tony has spoken with Jim Betts and Ryan Pendleton over the last several weeks. He then had a follow up call with Ryan, to discuss when the fiscal would be released along with the sub bill. We do not expect the sub bill or the fiscal spreadsheets to be released until after the election. We are aware of many of the provisions of Sub Bill but do not yet know exactly the fiscal impact on our members. We do know they did not adjust the floor keeping it at 5%.

Jessica provided a recap of what has occurred over the last several months as it relates to HB305. She indicated that we have been waiting on the Substitute version of the bill since September anticipating that hearings would be held in the House Finance Sub-committee on Primary and Secondary Education. During that time Senator Lehner has been working on a bipartisan companion bill in the Senate. That sub bill has not been released. We have been told that the sub bill to HB305 will be introduced next week following the election. Jessica and Tony will continue having conversations with the House and Senate leadership to see what the next steps may be.

Also, we spoke with Senator Dolan last week and he shared that he had not yet seen the sub bill. At this time, he is of the belief that the bill should be discussed in a budget year rather in lame duck. The Alliance will be supportive of HB305 to the extent that it aligns with the Alliance's priorities for school funding. Several components built in the bill will benefit most if not all our members. It still must be analyzed based on how it will affect each district.

2. Lame Duck

What gets done during lame duck should be primarily driven by the results of the election and the time available to address several very difficult issues. Jessica shared the following observations:

A. SB89

Has been pending in Conference committee because of the EdChoice issue. It is our understanding that the Ed Choice provisions will be pulled from the bill and it will revert to the initial career tech reform provisions.

B. HB9

HB9 may be the vehicle for the inclusion of education issues related to COVID flexibility as well as changes to EdChoice.

C. SB358

The provisions in this bill relating to the waiver of all Spring assessments is likely, not going to be supported in committee. Our goal will be to have those provisions in the bill related to immediate COVID flexibility needs pulled out and added into HB9 or another bill that would be considered during lame duck.

Jessica will keep all members up to date on the bills and the elections.

3. FY22/FY23 Biennial Budget Timeline

The state board, ODE and 23 cabinet agencies were required to submit operating budget proposals to the Office of Budget and Management to help inform the as introduced version of the budget that the Governor will propose in February. In the October board meeting the state board approved the departments operating budget proposal.

E. ODE/State Board of Education.

1. State Report Card-Proposed Revisions

The Accountability committee met to discuss possible revisions to the state report card that we have been working on with the education organizations. Tony has asked for feedback from members to see where we agree. We have been working in two separate committees, with ODE, BASA, OASBO and OSBA and with ODE, Ohio 8, Columbus City Schools, Ohio XCELS. Fordham and the Gifted Association. We will need to work on revisions for each component as well as the overall rating system.

2. Equity Issues

The State Board has been involved in several discussions related to equity as it pertains to delivering both instruction and content to students. While these discussions have not garnered the attention it normally would, this may be a topic we will want to begin to pick up after the first of the year in anticipation that we may need to take a policy stand at some point in the future.

F. Meetings with Key Stakeholders

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

Please see Legislative update.

2. Outreach to the Governor and Lt. Governor regarding Quarantine Issues

Please see Legislative update.

G. Membership

1. Dues – Status Report

All anticipated membership dues have either been received or in the process of being sent.

2. Annual Meeting – Virtual Conference/Format/Speaker

We will hold the Annual Meeting at 11:30am on November 9, 2020 (our normal luncheon date/time).

3. Quality Profile – Release Date- January 2021

A survey went out to members, most members would like to wait until January to release Quality Profile. Districts that are ready to release the Quality Profile in September or another month may do so, but the media release will go out in January.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on October 14, 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 TBD.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

A summary of the meeting held on October 21, 2020 relating to the unresolved issues for the State Report Card Revision process were reviewed during the Executive Director's report.

The next meeting is TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2020, at 11:30 a.m. by Zoom Conference Invite. The Alliance Annual Meeting which is being held by Zoom Conference due to COVID restrictions.

CERTIFICATE

I, Jeff Brown, Vice-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 October 28, 2020.


Jeff Brown, Vice-Chairperson


Tony Podojil, Executive Director