

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

September 23, 2020

Chairperson Tom Hosler called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:35 a.m. on September 23, 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
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village 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
Paul Imhoff	Upper Arlington
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District

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 August 19, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Brian Poe moved, and Jeff Brown seconded the approval of the minutes for August 19, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for August and reviewed the start of the fiscal year. He mentioned dues payments were still being received with only one member dropping due to financial hardship. He also mentioned that the Annual Luncheon would be done by video conference so that there would be no cost or revenue related to this year for the luncheon.

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

Fred Bolden moved, and Bob Hunt seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of August. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Coronavirus Update – Current Status.

1. 2020 – 21 School Year- Reopening

Tony shared the challenges raised during our calls with members related to what they are facing as they reopen schools. Issues associated with the quarantining of students and concerns with how to conduct state assessments and testing were discussed. The question on when to quarantine, which students and staff are guaranteed, and whether the move to guarantee is because of a confirmed case or a probable case.

Cases leading to guaranteeing are causing staffing problems and making it difficult to deliver instruction. Symptoms are the same as a cold, flu, etc. and no one case is the same. Some parents do not have insurance and cannot afford to go to a doctor to provide notes for the school. ODH has been asked to consider using the WHO social distancing standards, 3 feet instead of 6 feet for quarantining students that have been exposed.

COVID guidelines are needed as soon as possible as districts prepare for the winter sports season. Tony indicated he would reach out to OHSSA.

2. Tracing and Guaranteeing Students and Staff

As indicated previously, Districts remain concerned at the number of students needing to be guaranteed based on the 6 feet away with a mask within 15 minutes standard. The ODH has been asked to consider students modifying their quarantined guidance if no more than 1% of the students have a positive case at the same time in any of the buildings before massive guaranteeing is needed. While this is a suggestion made to ODH by one of our members, the committee agreed that districts should follow the advice of experts in the health area when making decisions about their district operations.

3. State Assessments – KRA and Third Grade

There are several questions districts have concerning parents that refuse to bring their child in for assessments and how to handle those situations. Guidance for gifted identification issues related to COVID was posted today. Tony suggested that the district's gifted coordinator review the guidance and provide feedback to him and Jessica so that those issues could be brought up to ODE if any exist.

B. Current Legislative Update.

Jessica stated she has been talking with legislators, ODE, and the Governor's office since before Labor Day on all of the challenges surrounding testing administration this fall, (vision, KRA, hearing, 3rd grade reading guarantee, ELA, etc.). Unfortunately, there is not a bill that can cover these issues and pass before the deadlines of the required testing/screenings. However, policy makers, leadership in the House and the Senate, the Governor's office, and ODE are aware of these issues and realize district concerns. They understand even if districts make the assessments available that some parents will not let the student participate in person. Jessica will continue to work on this and keep members posted.

The Senate has been in session more than the House, both are in this week for session today. This is the only House session before the November 3rd election.

1. HB606 - Signed by Governor on 9/14/20

HB606 passed the Senate and was signed by the Governor on September 14, 2020.

2. SB358 – Senate Education Committee

The third hearing on this bill is today. It would extend the provisions in HB197 and HB154 thru the 20-21 school year. SB358 was introduced by Sen Manning and Sen. Fedor, The provision in the bill to waive all Spring assessments and would require ODE to request a waiver from the Federal Government, has been addressed in the September 6 letter from Director Devos stating no testing waivers will be issued for this year.

HB305 There will be sub-committee having hearings on the Substitute version of 305 beginning next week thru October. They hope all the hearings can be finalized by October before the election day. Senator Lehner will introduce a companion bill in the Senate. Tony and Jessica would work on revising our current position on the bill once we see the final sub-bill. The goal is to have that document in a final draft form to present to the legislative committee by October 14th.

Note: Jeff Brown motioned to support the basic terms of 305 with our advocacy efforts and Paul Imhoff seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. ED Choice

Jessica will have more information around testing and ED Choice after Lame Duck which starts after the November 3 election and continues until the third week of December. She will keep members posted.

C. ODE/State Board of Education.

1. State Report Card

The Alliance is still working with stakeholders on changes to the report card. 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.

2. Devos Letter – Federal Assessment Waiver Ruling

Please see the legislative update.

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

These meetings will continue and will include both a discussion of how we move forward with this year as well as long term reforms. Tony has scheduled a meeting for October 9, 2020 with the executive directors of the education organizations to discuss moving forward to better position our efforts as a group.

E. Alliance COVID 19 Meetings

1. 8/25, 9/1, 9/22

We will continue to leave the Tuesday time open for all member (COVID19 committee) meeting on an as need basis. However, at this time the Alliance will go back to its usual schedule of Legislative meeting dates/time with the Legislative Committee members.

F. Membership

1. Dues – Status Report

Membership dues are still being received.

2. Annual Meeting – Virtual Conference

The Executive Committee agreed to conducting a virtual meeting focusing on summarizing the year. Tony mentioned that there will be a need to update the Zoom license to accommodate more than 100 participants. We will hold it at 11:30am on November 9, 2020 (our normal luncheon date/time).

3. Quality Profile – Release Date

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

The meeting scheduled for August was postponed.
The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020 at 9:30am.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

The meeting scheduled for August 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 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 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 September 23, 2020.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director