

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

June 24, 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 June 24, 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:

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
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Jeff Brown	Granville Exempted Village School District
John Marschhausen	Hilliard City School District
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
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River 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 May 27, 2020 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

John Marschhausen moved, and Kathy Powers seconded the approval of the minutes for May 27, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report.

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for May. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget remains on target and we should meet our yearly projections with one month remaining in the fiscal year including a carryover of approximately \$15,000 that is currently built into the 20 – 21 budget.

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

Jeff Brown moved, and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for the month of May. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Approval of Ice Miller Whitehead 20-21 Contract.

A copy of the contract for the 20-21 term was electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Tony informed the group that he is recommending that Ice Miller's contract for Jessica's services be renewed for the upcoming year. The renewal contract for the 20/21 school year contains an increase in payment terms but no changes in terms of service. That increase has been included in the 20/21 budget approved in May. An evaluation related to time, responsibilities and costs will be conducted in January in preparation for the next contract period.

Bob Hunt moved and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the 2020-2021 contract. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Coronavirus Update – Current Status.

1. HB 164-Amendments (Evaluations, Licensure Flexibility, Funding)

Tony stated that components of SB319 were amended into HB164 which had already passed in the House and was awaiting Senate approval. This became the vehicle the Senate could amend in committee and get to the full Senate for a vote last week. Unfortunately, we could not get the furlough provision added as an amendment. OEA and OFT refused to support the other amendments (licensure flexibility, evaluations) if that provision was added to HB164. Depending on what the budget reductions might be in the Fall, we can discuss adding furlough language into another bill when the General Assembly returns.

Tony has been in contact with the Ohio Department of Education to clarify the interpretation of the amendment related to remote/blended language. ODE's legal department was interpreting the language so that only one plan could be submitted and only the remote could be used. There was some concern that districts that had a blended learning plan already in place would have to resubmit under remote learning. We have been told that the ODE is working to clarify that position. The intent of the amendment was to allow districts to offer remote plans but not at the exclusion of the blended programs already developed.

In regard to the changes in the pre-school rules, Jessica stated the State Board of Education, under the direction of the Governor, passed a resolution to adopt an emergency rule on June 9th, to align the health and safety guidelines for ODJFS and the publicly funded child care program to the preschool programs that school districts provide. The rules are effective for 120 days, now through the middle of October, and the Governor then has the authority to extend for an additional 120 days. Alliance members are asking if there is flexibility regarding the new ratios. We are currently working with the Governor's office and ODE to see if any changes can be made during this 120-day period to help districts offer their programs. The new ratios are causing a financial burden due to the increase in certified staffing required.

Planning for 2020-21 School Year and Status of State Dept of Health Requirements

Tony spoke to John Richard following a call with the Governor's office and he indicated that the health requirements were not yet ready for release. The Governor may consider a code system which would dictate the level social distancing guidelines necessary for a region or area of the state. We are anticipating these codes and guidelines will be recommendations, not requirements and that you will work with your local health Department as you put your plans together to reopen. These guidelines need to be provided before July 1 since the last executive order ends on June 30. We are hopeful that the new order will be released on June 30 during the Governor's press conference.

B. Current Legislative Update.

1. Other Bills that Passed and Updated Bill Tracker

Jessica sent an email to all members on June 23, 2020 with an updated bill tracker. There are two bills that are pending in Legislature, HB606 and SB308, both expand immunity coverage for public entities for COVID-19 issues. She indicated that she would update members when the House returns in September. There are several

questions related to the level of liability that district insurance policies cover and what level of personal liability may result of decisions made to reopen related to the pandemic.

Jessica is watching the movement of HB123 (School Security) in the Senate and if passed, if it will be concurred by the House. The other two bills that are of interest are HB239 (testing reductions) and HB322 (teacher residency).

In the Senate, Senator Huffman has introduced SB320 which would greatly expand the authority of local school boards to make their own decisions related to opening school outside of any requirements proposed by the Ohio Department of Education. Jessica and Tony shared that they had been approached by the Senate Education Chair to testify on the bill which was slated for a second hearing that afternoon.

It was agreed that the Alliance should offer testimony on the bill as an interested party and emphasize that while we are normally supportive of expanding local control, in this instance due to the nature of the decision focusing on the health and safety of students and staff, we would be more supportive of an approach that is collaborative and includes all interested parties; the Governor's office, ODE, ODH and the local directors of health. In addition, an amendment related to expanded liability protection needs to be included in any bill regardless if additional local control is granted. A draft of the testimony was shared, and the committee gave its approval for Tony to testify later that afternoon.

2. Legislative Priorities

Jessica updated members on those issues of importance to the Alliance as this session ends and we begin to establish legislative priorities when the General Assembly returns in the Fall. Furlough authority, a likely FY21 funding formula cut, state testing waivers for 20-21, Report Card Reform and issues related to the expansion of Ed Choice may all be on our list going forward. We can have a more in-depth discussion in July and specific stands we need to take on each issue.

3. Next steps? Fall Return of General Assembly and Lame Duck Session

In addition to the fall return of the General Assembly, we will need to begin preparing for the November election on the lame duck session that we are expecting to be loaded with additional proposals. We have reached out to Senator Dolan to begin a conversation on the potential impacts related to the 20 – 21 budgets. He has expressed a willingness to meet with us and keep us informed and updated related to revenue trends and potential budget reductions.

C. ODE/State Board of Education.

1. Reset—Restart Guidance

We expect the Reset – Restart document to be released no later than Tuesday, June 30. The Governor's most recent order expires on July 1.

2. Preschool Emergency Rules

Please see the Executive Director's report above.

D. Meetings with Key Stakeholders – Outreach this Summer

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

We continue to discuss with Chair Jones our legislative priorities in anticipation these will be discussed in committee during this session or be taken up by another committee.

2. Sen. Lehner—Senate Education Committee Chair

We continue to discuss with Chair Lehner our legislative priorities in anticipation these will be discussed in committee during this session or be taken up by another committee. Suicide Awareness and School Counselor Job Descriptions are on her agenda to be discussed.

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

We continue to stay connected to the major education organizations and hope to meet with each of the groups to discuss priorities and strategies over the summer.

E. Alliance COVID 19 Meetings

1. 5/26, 6/2, 6/10, 6/16, 6/23

We continue to have these calls every Tuesday with between 50 to 60 participants on the call. 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**

Dues notices were sent out May 1, 2020 for 20-21, we are currently receiving payments.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

The meeting scheduled for June was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

The meeting scheduled for June was postponed.

The next meeting is scheduled is TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

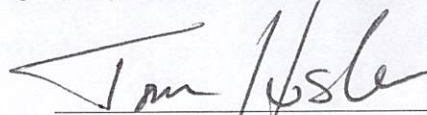
No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT


Chairperson Tom Hosler adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 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 June 24, 2020.



Tom Hosler, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director