

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

July 28, 2021

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 July 28, 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
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City Schools
John Marschhausen	Dublin City Schools
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Mike Barnes	Mayfield City School District
Bill Porter	Mentor Exempted Village School District
Thomas Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon 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 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 June 2021 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Bob Scott moved, and Tom Hosler seconded the approval of the minutes for June 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for June and the end of the fiscal year. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget finished within our targets for the year resulting in approximately a \$10,000.00 difference in overall costs once you account for the revenue and expense changes due primarily to reductions in daily expenses because of Covid and the cancellation of the annual meeting. That amount will be carried over in the 21-22 budget.

The only expense included in this year's budget was the deposit to hold the hotel for the 2021 November annual meeting.

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

Brian Poe moved, and Steve Estep seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of June. The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Approval of Ice Miller Contract for 2021-2022**

Tony informed the group that he is recommending the Ice Miller contract for Jessica's services be renewed for the upcoming year.

A copy of the Ice Miller Contract was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

Fred Bolden moved, and John Marschhausen seconded the approval of the Ice Miller Contract which will remain active until June 30, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Coronavirus Update**

- 1. Vaccinations (Classroom, Buses, Athletics)**
- 2. Masks, CDC/PDA/ODH recommendations**
- 3. HB244 Vaccine Prohibitions**

The new guidance on mask from the ODH and guidance from the OHSAA was sent to members during the call. Discussion was focused on mask, quarantining non-vaccinated students vs. vaccinated students, how to request vaccination information from families and what concerns are coming up in the communities for the 2021-22 school year.

Districts are working with each local health department and plan to continue with CDC recommendations of masking, distancing, cleaning, and quarantining procedures from last year.

There is a concern among districts that if a mask mandate is instituted for staff and students a legal challenge may be launched limiting a districts ability to make that decision., For most districts, mask will be recommended but not required now except for student transportation. Requirements could be based on the age/grade of the student since those under 12 do not yet have access to a vaccine.

Questions from families in each community have included asking if staff have been vaccinated, if there is an online option, and are requesting either wear mask or are requesting no mask.

Consensus is to have all students back in school five days per week. While the CDC is recommending masks, ODH has not made this an order and we don't anticipate they will unless the virus spread changes dramatically in the coming weeks.

Transportation is under a federal mandate requiring mask to be worn on buses.

Jessica will keep members posted on any changes as this issue evolves.

## **B. Legislative Update**

- 1. HB327/HB322 – Prohibitions Related to Teaching Race Theory**
- 2. HB248 – Vaccine Choice and Anti-discrimination**
- 3. HB61- Transgender Athletics**

Jessica shared HB244 will go into effect on October 13. HB244 deals with a prohibition on requiring vaccinations that have not been FDA approved. Once there is a vaccination for younger children and we potentially have FDA approval, there still may be concerns to work on with Legislators through the school year as the law may change on vaccinations (COVID related or otherwise). She will reach out to Senator Brenner and other legislators to keep ongoing conversations to inform members as things unfold.

The legislature is coming back the second week of September. First session dates for both the House and Senate are September 15 with re-districting being the most time sensitive issue to address. Jessica will be keeping members updated on this as well as sending out a review of the budget to members before Fall.

HB 322 (Rep. Jones) and HB 327 (Rep, Grendell/ Rep. Fowler Arthur) are bills dealing with proposing restrictions related to the teaching of Critical Race Theory in schools. This is an ongoing discussion. Hearings will resume once the legislature is back. There was an attempt to amend CRT into another HB that was going to pass in June but that did not happen.

The Alliance plans to have meetings with members to share concerns as districts move forward with these discussions with their boards and communities. These bills are very restrictive in terms of restricting local decision-making related to curriculum content and classroom instruction. The Alliance may be asked to testify. Jessica will keep members posted.

HB 61 Transgender Athletics will still get attention from the General Assembly when they return in September. Jessica will keep members posted.

There are still a lot of questions around school funding, budget, implementation, and guidance from the department. Jessica will send updates as they become available.

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

- 1. State Superintendent – Interim Approved and Search Process**

The interim superintendent is John Richard. We have reached out to the state board to see if we can get a better understanding on how the search process may unfold in the coming months. This may be a long process. Jessica will keep members updated.

## **D. Membership.**

- 1. Executive Committee Member Changes**

Tony welcomed Michael Barnes, superintendent of Mayfield City School District (North) as a new Executive Committee member. Tony shared Andy Culp, superintendent of Grandview (Central) and Greg Sears, superintendent of Kings Local (Southern) have also joined the Executive Committee.

Two districts have reached out to join the Alliance, Tony is working with both, and they have received the documentation should they decide to join.

### **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on July 21, 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 scheduled for August 18, 2021.

### **ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on July 21, 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 scheduled for August 18, 2021 with the Legislative meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section

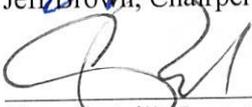
### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. by Zoom Conference Invite (BASA Conference room)

### **CERTIFICATE**

I, Jeff Brown, 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 July 28, 2021.

  
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Jeff Brown, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director