

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

September 22, 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 September 22, 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
Andy Culp	Grandview Heights School District
Nancy Santilli	Kenston Local School District
Greg Sears	Kings Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont 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
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District

Also, present were Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil and Legislative Consultant Jessica Voltolini.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Jeff Brown requested that the committee move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a contract concern.

Brian Poe moved, and Nancy Santilli seconded the committee move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion was held regarding the contract for the Executive Director which added liability insurance and extended the contract through June 30, 2025.

Fred Bolden moved, and Brian Poe seconded the committee approval of changes to the contract for the Executive Director. The motion passed unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Executive Committee meeting minutes from July 2021 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Tom Hosler moved, and Chad Hilliker seconded the approval of the minutes for July 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for July and August. Tony indicated that we have 64 memberships paid with a few still to receive that we have been in contact with, and only one member, Wickliffe, that is deciding if they will continue as a member.

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

Tom Hosler moved, and Bill Porter seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the months of July and August. The motion passed unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Coronavirus Update

1. Vaccination Legislation
2. Masks and Quarantine – DOH Guidance
3. Hybrid/Online Learning and HB110 Implementation
4. Remote Meetings

Tony asked if any of the members had any concerns on the COVID issues in reference to mask, no mask, Governor media events, and vaccinations etc.

*Q. Is there any talk about the quarantine guidelines changing from ODH?*

A. There is nothing imminent. Jessica recommended sending specific questions on what needs to be clarified, other than that Jessica does not believe that there will be any other direction.

### Comments and Concerns:

- Some Alliance member districts stated they have sent or are in the process of sending letters to the Governor's office or the ODH's office requesting guidance or giving ideas to change quarantine concerns.
- Districts are being advised to include their Local Health Director and get their approval regarding any changes before presenting those concerns to the Governor or OHD.
- Many districts were told the Local Health Directors determine quarantine and isolation and ODH only issues guidelines for the Local Departments.
- Districts stated that it is helpful for all the districts to be consistent with quarantine and mask requirements, but the local departments have been inconsistent in their applications which is particularly problematic when those differences occur in counties that next to each other or in which districts share a geographic connection.
- One district, Kings, has been working with ODH, other Warren County schools, the Local Health Department, and the Governor to receive approval on a pilot plan that starts next week and may be applicable to the state after reviewing data that is collected.
- Contact Tracing and reporting by the schools, while a legal responsibility, schools do not have the enforcement or ability to quarantine students.
- Some superintendents and board members are receiving credible threats that have resulted in the need to seek police escort to meetings.

Several districts would like the education support organizations, including the Alliance, to take a more aggressive approach statewide in terms of messaging related to the issues that the districts are experiencing related to not only COVID but the others that have recently been added by the General Assembly. Having each county being allowed to do apply different rules is causing confusion and frustration for parents and communities and placing pressure on the superintendents and school boards for situations they are not able to control.

*Q. Is there something that the Alliance can do such as a press release, writing to the Governor or legislature as a universal message?*

A. This would allow the membership to have the opportunity to reach the parents and the communities with a single message that superintendents can point to from a state level. Jeff indicated he would work with Tony and Jessica on crafting a press release that would be shared with the Executive Committee before it was released to the membership. The target date for the release would be the first week of October while we release the Quality Profile report statewide.

**B. Legislative Update**

1. **HB327/HB322 – Prohibitions Related to Teaching Race Theory**
2. **Property Valuation Challenges**
3. **SB1 Financial Literacy**
4. **Redistricting**

Jessica shared that she and Tony have a meeting today with Senator Blessing at 11am as a follow up on school funding and to discuss language in SB229 which includes an extension of the remote learning options that schools were afforded last year.

Rep. Jones will be meeting with both Tony and Jessica today as well on HB322/327. There was a CRT protest yesterday at the state board meeting and at the Statehouse. Alliance testimony will be given next week instead of later today unless we learn something different during our meeting with Rep. Jones. Jessica will send out a copy to all members once that is completed.

SB1 was passed out of House Committee yesterday and will be voted off the floor today or next week. Jessica will send a final version out to members once it is available.

HB248 will be replaced with the new vaccination mandate bill by the end of the month which is focused on COVID vaccination and not all vaccines. Jessica will update members on what is in the bill as it applies to K-12. She will send out to all members once it is available.

Tony and Jessica will be meeting with Fordham today to continue discussions on open enrollment.

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

1. **State Superintendent Search Timeline**

The interim superintendent is Stephanie Sidders. The search process may unfold in the coming months. We anticipate a lengthy process once the search firm has been selected.

**D. Membership.**

1. **Renewal Update**

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. Also, see update on current membership enrollment in the fiscal report.

## **LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on September 15, 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 October 20, 2021.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on September 15, 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 October 20, 2021.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section

## **NEW BUSINESS**

No business discussed in this section

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 27, 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 September 22, 2021.

  
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Jeff Brown, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director