

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

October 26, 2022

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order an in-person and video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on October 26, 2022. The Executive Committee met in-person and by video conference due to health concerns related to the spread of Coronavirus.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott
Scot Prebles
Jason Fine
Mike Hanlon
Jeff Brown
Andy Culp
Greg Sears
Steve Estep
Tom Hosler
Tom Burton
Michael Shoaf
Fred Bolden
Kathryn Powers
Rob O'Leary
Trent Bowers

Avon Lake City School District
Bay Village City School District
Bexley City School District
Chardon Local School District
Granville Ex. Village School District
Grandview Heights School District
Kings Local School District
Mariemont City School District
Perrysburg exempted Village School District
Princeton City School District
Rocky River City School District
Solon City School District
Twinsburg City School District
Vandalia-Butler City School District
Worthington City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil and guest William Schwartz attended representing The WRS Group LLC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Jeff Brown requested that the committee move into Executive Session to discuss the contract with The WRS Group LLC, related to the vacant Legislative Consultant position.

Trent Bowers moved, and Mike Hanlon seconded, that the committee move into Executive Session at 9:34am. The motion passed unanimously.

Fred Bolden moved, and Steve Estep seconded that the committee reconvene the meeting at 9:39. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the Executive Session, Scot Prebles moved, and Andy Culp seconded the approval of the contract for legislative services with The WRS Group, LLC. and the appointment of William Schwartz to the Legislative Consultant position. The motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 2022 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Andy Culp moved, and Bob Scott seconded the approval of the minutes for September 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for September 2022. He mentioned all dues payments, except three, had been received with the remaining three being processed. He also mentioned the need to update some of the office equipment within the next few months.

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

Mike Hanlon moved, and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal report for September 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Bills That May Be considered during Lame Duck Session

NOTE: There has not been many changes to the below since our last meeting. The General Assembly should return in November.

1. **HB 497—Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

The House has approved a major change to the Kasich-era third grade reading guarantee law via HB497. The bill would end the requirement that students who fall short of the promotion score on the third-grade English language arts test be retained in third grade. It also would cut administration of the third-grade test from twice to once per year. The legislation would maintain the requirement that schools test early elementary students for reading and provide intervention and remediation services to those who are reading below grade level.

A proposed resolution in support of HB 497 is pending before the State Board of Education and OEA/OFT are continuing their push to advance the bill. Led by Sen. Brenner, the bill does not have much life in its current form and the opposition by Fordham and Ohio Excels reduces its chances for success.

2. **HB 151—Resident Educator/RESA**

The House also passed changes to the Ohio Teacher Residency Program, a four-year mentoring and professional development regimen for beginning teachers, via HB151 (Jones). Among other changes, the bill allows mentoring to happen both online and in person, prohibits placing a limit on how many times someone can try to pass the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA), and cuts from four years to two the alternative resident educator license, available to people who did not complete a traditional teacher preparation program but met other educational requirements.

a. **Transgender Girls Participation Banning**

HB151's teacher residency provisions are now intertwined with a controversial proposal on barring transgender girls' participation in girls' sports. If a dispute arises on a participant's sex, they must establish their sex via a physician's statement that addresses their internal and external reproductive anatomy, their "normal endogenously produced levels of testosterone," and an analysis of their "genetic makeup." An amendment to include this sports language, previously proposed in HB61 (Powell-Stoltzfus) was added to the bill on the House floor.

Senate President Matt Huffman has said he disagreed with the way in which HB 61 was included in HB 151 and expects his chamber will pursue their own version of HB 61: SB 132, sponsored by Sen. Kristina Roegner. OHSAA has been meeting extensively with lawmakers on both proposals and explaining its policies.

3. **HB 616—CRT/" Don't Say Gay" Bill:**

This legislation was referred to the House State & Local Government Committee and had its first hearing/sponsor testimony on May 31. It would take a massive lift for this legislation, or components of it, to cross

the finish line before the new year. Neither bill on this topic, including HB 322 and HB 327, have passed out of committee, and Senate President Matt Huffman has been on record stating these are issues best handled at the local level and with the State Board of Education through its standards adoption process.

4. HB 529—Curriculum Transparency: First Hearing/Sponsor Testimony on 5/17/2022

This legislation has had two hearings in House Education Committee. No movement since the Spring but expect this topic to be discussed during the budget deliberations as the national movement and conversation on parents' rights persists.

5. HB 492 – Mental Health Training for Athletic Coaches

Would require school sports coaches to undergo training on student mental health.

6. HB 554 – Temporary Educator Licenses

Would allow those with expired teacher licenses to apply for temporary licenses as a means to address teacher shortages. This bill could be a potential legislative vehicle for other lame-duck changes.

7. HB606 – “Sarah’s Law for Seizure Safe Schools.”

Would require schools to create a seizure action plan for each student with a seizure disorder and have at least one employee trained in implementing such plans. Rumored as the preferred lame-duck legislative vehicle.

8. HB 333 – Counselor Job Description

Would have ODE recommend a job description for school counselors, an attempt to help counselors get back to their core job duties and avoid reassignments to other administrative tasks. Given the presence of state agency reformers like Sens. Rob McColley and Kristina Roegner in the Senate, it is unlikely this proposal reaches the finish line this session.

9. HB639 – “Student Protection Act”

Would require each student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2023, to complete self-defense instruction as part of the one-half unit of health instruction in order to qualify for a diploma. The bill was introduced very late in the process and will likely fail before session's end.

10. Storm Shelters

The current moratorium on the requirement to build storm shelters when constructing new school buildings expires on November 30. Led by Sen. Tim Schaffer, the Senate may include an extension of this moratorium into one of the lame-duck legislative vehicles, which would expire on 12/31/24.

11. Green Circle Growers

A consortium of local governments is working to address a recent Ninth District Court ruling in which a large greenhouse company in Lorain County, Green Circle Growers, successfully challenged its tax classification and reduced its tax liability by nearly \$1 million annually. Affected taxing units are also required to reimburse the company by more than \$4 million. The ruling, and refusal by the State Supreme Court, signals a potential wave of challenges by other property owners, like storage units and car washes, that will erode the local tax base and shift the tax burden onto other property owners.

12. Raffles

The Senate intends to correct a budget item oversight in which the ability for school districts and others to legally conduct raffles was eliminated. Senate President Huffman has expressed approval for the change.

13. ODE Lame Duck Priorities

ODE is reportedly working on two issues for the lame duck session: a correction to the law regarding graduation requirements for chartered nonpublic (private) schools and revising the Afterschool Childhood Enrichment (ACE) program by increasing the eligibility from 300% to 400% of the federal poverty level and increasing the annual, per-pupil amounts from \$500 to \$1,000. Participation in the program is significantly low, and ODE and the Senate are keen on broadening access as the funds must be expended by 9/30/24.

B. Fair Funding Formula-State Budget/Meeting with legislators

Tony shared several conversations he has had with members of the general assembly related to what we might expect when the next budget deliberations begin next year. Based on those conversations, it appears that there is some support for continuing the funding formula phase in through the next biennium. The complexities related to changing formulas, as revealed in the latest iteration along with a need to see how the provisions of this method actually play out, should provide the support to continue on the present course.

The recent property reevaluations that have occurred and the levels of increases (20 – 35% in some areas), will have a profound impact on the formula since property value wealth is directly tied to the state aid equation. Without a corresponding increase in the pupil allocation, state share will fall for those districts impacted by the reevaluation. Discussions are occurring related to developing some guard rails on both sides of the ledger, per pupil increases tied to teacher salary and significant shifts in property and/or income wealth.

In addition to the above, Tony noted that we will continue to need to advocate for an increase in the minimum funding level from its current base of 5%. With the phase in proceeding as scheduled, the guarantees built into that phase in will eventually be phased out leaving districts with actual calculations.

This concept also applies to our members ability to participate in the OFFC program since the minimum level of participation is also set at 5% rendering participation in the program beyond the reach of a majority of our members.

C. ODE/State Board of Education

1. Title IX Policy Considerations

The State Board of Education Executive Committee will discuss the Title IX resolution at its Oct. 31 meeting.

2. Transportation

Discussion on transportation issues, including the compliance and monitoring system, continues. The Alliance is working with the Ohio 8 and non-traditional education groups to find an acceptable compromise system, similar to the payment-in-lieu-of process, under which a mediation process would occur.

D. Membership

1. 2022/2023 Membership – update (North Ridgeville)

Membership dues are still being received. North Ridgeville is considering membership, we are waiting to hear from them.

2. Luncheon - Update

Tony confirmed lunch will be held at the 402, the Hilton's expansion, and supplied directions to the new location of the ballroom. Tony also mentioned we have asked the Ohio Department of Education's, Stephanie Siddens, Interim State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jessica Voltolini, Chief of Staff, and The WRS Group's, William Schwartz to be on the Alliance panel.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held October 28, 2022, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

A. School Levy Litigation

Tony informed the committee that this topic will not be heard until February. Superintendents are not allowed to discuss levy concerns with the community. Board Members are allowed to discuss levy concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section

ADJOURNMENT

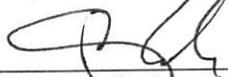
Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2022, at Capital Conference.

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 October 26, 2022.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podajil, Executive Director