

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

January 25, 2023

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 January 25, 2023. The Executive Committee met by video conference due to unsafe weather conditions.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott  
Scot Prebles  
Jason Fine  
Mike Hanlon  
Brian Poe  
John Marschhausen  
Chad Hilliker  
Greg Sears  
Tom Hosler  
Tom Burton  
Fred Bolden  
Kathryn Powers  
Rob O'Leary

Avon Lake City School District  
Bay Village City School District  
Bexley City School District  
Chardon Local School District  
Copley-Fairlawn City School District  
Dublin City School District  
ESC of Hamilton County  
Kings Local School District  
Perrysburg exempted Village School District  
Princeton City School District  
Solon City School District  
Twinsburg City School District  
Vandalia-Butler City School District

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**MINUTES**

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

Mike Hanlon moved, and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the minutes for October 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for October, November, and December 2022. Tony indicated that the budget continues to be on target as we moved into the second half of the fiscal year.

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

Robert Scott moved, and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for October, November, and December 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. Bills Under Consideration:

#### 1. SB 1 (Reineke) Reform function, responsibilities, accountability of state education office to emphasize education, workforce development.

SB1 received a first hearing this week with testimony from sponsor Sen. Bill Reineke. A second hearing on the bill will take place on Feb. 7, with an expected committee vote in late February or early March. Tony and Will are invited to Interested Party stakeholder meeting on Feb. 6 to discuss modifications to the bill with Sen. Andrew Brenner and Reineke.

Key additions to SB 1 from last session's SB 178 include:

- an authorization for the legislature to rescind or invalidate any administrative rule adopted by the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW)
- a prohibition on the DEW director and deputy directors from holding office for more than 45 days without being confirmed by the Ohio Senate.

Senate Republicans will attend their legislative retreat next week (Jan. 24-25) in Northeast Ohio and will return the following week to resume legislative activity.

#### 2. SB11 (O'Brien) Parent Educational Freedom Act – Expand eligibility of Ed Choice Scholarships

This is a universal voucher program sponsored by Sen. Sandra O'Brien. It would qualify all K-12 students and incoming kindergartners for an EdChoice voucher regardless of their income or residence. It also increases the amount of homeschooling expenses that a taxpayer can claim as an income tax credit each year, from \$250 to \$2,000. The nonpartisan Legislative Service Commission estimates the cost of universal vouchers at \$536.4 million annually and each year thereafter. With public school students transferring to a private school under a voucher, there may be a state savings effect depending upon the level of state funding that district receives, leaving the projected net annual expenditure at \$527.6 million. The tax credit changes will reduce state revenues by roughly \$40 million annually. The bill will receive a first hearing on Feb. 7.

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

Will shared that discussions with lawmakers and stakeholders are ongoing to continue the Fair School Funding Plan and ensure a minimum funding floor for AHQE members will be in place. Additional conversations surround guarantees and transportation funding, which are important topics for Alliance members. Tony and Will have met and are scheduled to meet with a variety of House and Senate members in the coming weeks on funding and other budget matters.

### C. ODE/State Board of Education

#### 1. LaRue – Board President

The State Board of Education selected Paul LaRue as president and Martha Manchester as Vice President at their January meeting.

#### 2. Literacy

Tony continues to be involved in strategic discussions with Ohio Excels, the Ohio Department of Education and other education partners on improving literacy achievement for Ohio students. We anticipate the governor's budget proposal to include reforms in this space with funding to assist schools with implementation. It is also a State School Board and ODE priority.

### 3. 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 – North Ridgeville, Danbury, Perry (Lake County)

North Ridgeville, Danbury, and Perry (Lake County) are considering membership for next year, we are waiting to hear from them.

## LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held January 27, 2023, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

### OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section

### NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Regional Meetings

Tony asked the committee for feedback on scheduling regional meetings again with health concerns beginning to calm, it was agreed that those meetings should be scheduled for this year.

### ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2023, at the BASA Office and via Zoom invite.

### 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 January 25, 2023.

  
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Jeff Brown, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director