

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

July 27, 2022

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 27, 2022. 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
Jason Fine	Bexley City School District
Mike Hanlon	Chardon Local School District
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City School District
Greg Sears	Kings Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

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

Fred Bolden moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for June 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for June 2022. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget finished within our targets for the year.

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

Mike Hanlon moved, and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of June 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Bills Passed Prior to Summer Recess: - Carryover from June Meeting

1. HB 583—Substitute Teacher Flexibility Plus All Other Education-Related Amendments

HB583 extends pandemic-era flexibility for hiring substitutes, waiving the general requirement for a bachelor's degree, and instead letting local districts determine the educational criteria for candidates, who otherwise must be deemed of good moral character and able to pass a criminal records check. This flexibility is extended through the 2023-2024 academic year.

The legislation also creates a study committee on substitute shortages, with findings due at year's end.

a. School Funding Cleanup/Technical Amendments

HB583 follows up on last year's enactment of a new school funding formula with twenty technical and corrective changes, ranging from eliminating redundant reporting requirements, to specifying funds left over from a closed charter school go to the General Revenue Fund, to authorizing a carryover of unspent grant funding for transportation collaboration projects, to numerous others.

b. Dyslexia Screening and Guidebook Clarity

HB583 also changes dyslexia support laws enacted in the previous General Assembly via 133-HB436 (Baldrige). Annual screenings of K-6 students will not be required until the 2023-2024 academic year, versus the 2022-2023 school year, although districts will be permitted to administer them if they want. Also, in HB583 is language that differentiates between addressing schools' ability to utilize best practices and recommendations in the recently adopted and much-discussed dyslexia guidebook, with the requirement that they follow provisions prescribed by statute.

c. Tutoring Proposal – SB306

In the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee, Chair Andrew Brenner (R-Powell) was also able to attach his separate tutoring proposal, SB306 (Brenner), as an amendment. The tutoring program is aimed at addressing pandemic-era learning loss. The tutoring program will be administered by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) but coordinated by the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio, which will work via sixteen regional educational service centers (ESCs) to place tutors. Lawmakers also provided about \$2.4 million for ODE's costs associated with the tutoring program.

d. After School Child Enrichment (ACE)

HB583 made modifications to the Afterschool Child Enrichment (ACE) education savings accounts, created in the biennial budget. Families will now be able to roll over unspent funds from FY22 to F23. The accounts are available to families earning up to 300 percent of poverty and provide \$500 per child per fiscal year for the likes of before- and after-school programs, tutoring, museum admissions, music lessons or language classes.

e. Charter Schools Safe Harbor from Sanctions

The legislation also picked up several charter school-specific provisions, including a safe harbor from sanctions for charter school sponsors based on sponsor ratings for this academic year, and language barring ODE from giving the two lowest ratings – ineffective or poor – to a sponsor solely based on that sponsor's receiving no points on one component of the evaluation.

f. "Ohio School Safety Month" – October

Also included in HB583 was the designation of October as "Ohio School Safety Month" and other provisions on prelicensure education programs for licensed practical nurses, alternative resident educator licenses and administration of tax credits for employers providing work-based learning experiences

2. HB 140—(Merrin) – Ballot Uniformity and Transparency Act

Requires property tax election notices and ballot language to convey a property tax levy's rate in dollars for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value (i.e., true value), instead of in dollars for each \$100 of taxable value, in the following manner:

- For a levy that is a renewal, decrease, increase, or expansion of an existing tax, the levy's effective tax rate for property classified as residential/agricultural.
- For all other levies, the levy's voted millage rate.
- Requires most election notices and ballot language to display the estimated amount the levy would collect annually.
- Prohibits any portion of a property tax question from being printed on the ballot in boldface type or with differing font size, with some exceptions.
- Modifies the deadline for the county auditor's certification of a fixed-sum emergency levy or growth levy.

3. Hb 99(Hall) —School Safety

HB99 allows for the arming school employees and sets an initial training requirement of up to 24 hours and an eight-hour recertification requirement, mandating specific instruction on topics such as neutralization of threats, de-escalation techniques and trauma and first aid care.

B. Bills That We Need to Be Prepared to Discuss for Lame Duck Sessions

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

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.

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.

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.

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

This legislation has had two hearings in House Education Committee

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

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.

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.

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.

10. HB 619 - Student’s Mental Health Day (Rep. Miranda/Blackshear)

Ohio lawmakers are considering a proposal that would give K-12 students three mental health days a year, defining those days as being a time “during which a student attends to the student’s emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school.” Language in the bill must ensure kids are not simply given the day off without an effort made to address any concerns.

C. ODE/State Board of Education

NOTE: The State Board of Education will give updates on the following in September.

1. **Model Curriculum – Computer Science**
2. **Rule for Phonics**
3. **Teacher residency and Alternative License**

State Superintendency

Stephanie Siddens remains the interim superintendent as the state board continues its search. The candidate search will probably continue until after January.

D. Membership

1. 2022/2023 Membership - update

Membership dues have been emailed and payments are being received.

LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

A legislative update was distributed on June 24, 2022, to all members and was reviewed during the Executive Director’s report related to the legislative update.

The next meeting will be held September 2022.

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

The Accountability Committee meetings will continue to be held with the Legislative Committee meetings until further notice.

The next meeting is TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Lobbyist Search Process

Tony continues to search for our new lobbyist. Resumes will be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration.

B. Initiative with OESCA – Werth Associates

Werth Associates, a communication firm working with the Alliance and OESCA, developed a public relations communications plan to assist with implementing a statewide message system in support of public education and in particular, the work our members have been doing with the Quality Profile and the Profile of a Graduate. Werth's initial cost is beyond the ability of both organizations. It was decided to continue to work with Werth and the ESCs to see if we can produce a scaled down version of the project.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Quality Profile

Jeff Brown suggested that we send out a reminder to members regarding this year's release of the Quality Profile Report (September 15) in light of the move to the new state accountability system (Stars). Tony indicated he would work to put together a revised Quality Profile Media Release reflecting the changes and our next release date.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2022, at BASA's office and via Zoom if needed.

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 27, 2022.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director