

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

June 22, 2022

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on June 22, 2022, in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235. The Executive Committee also offered the ability to join via video conference due to health concerns related to the spread of Coronavirus.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City School District
John Marschhausen	Dublin City Schools
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Scot Prebles	Forest Hills School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Mike Barnes	Mayfield City School District
Thomas Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler 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 May 2022 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Trent Bowers moved, and Chad Hilliker seconded the approval of the minutes for May 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for May 2022. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget remains on target to meet our yearly projections with one month remaining in the fiscal year. June will not show a payment for Ice Miller as May was the last invoice for Jessica's services.

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

Kathy Powers moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the fiscal report for the month of May 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Bills Passed Prior to Summer Recess:**

**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**

**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.

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

**1. Preschool Special Education Integrated Classroom Rule Revisions—Emergency Approval**

The State Board of Education took an emergency vote on 6/14/22 to give preschools more flexibility on student ratios in integrated classrooms that include both special education and general education students, responding to feedback from the field.

The board’s Integrated Student Supports Committee voted to recommend changes to, a part of the operating standards for education of students with disabilities outlining preschool special education requirements.

Under revisions adopted by the committee and full board, integrated classrooms will now need to have 50 percent or fewer students with disabilities, and the maximum number of children with disabilities who can be included in a general education classroom increased from six to eight.

In essence, this returns the 50 – 50 rules to its original language and intent and allows district to plan according to the change for the 22-23 school year.

**2. Reading Guarantee Cut Score Change (683 - 685)**

The Performance and Impact Committee voted on 6/13/22 to recommend slightly increasing the test score students must achieve on third grade English tests to be promoted to fourth grade under Ohio’s reading guarantee law.

The committee voted to increase the cut score from 683 to 685; the sub-score on the reading component of the test, which can also be used to qualify for promotion to fourth grade, would increase from 46 to 47.

A full board vote is possible in July.

**3. Interim Superintendent – Siddens**

**a. Priorities: Literacy, Learning Loss, and Career-Tech/Workforce Readiness**

Superintendent Dackin has resigned as state superintendent and Stephanie Siddens, has once again been appointed the interim superintendent during the June state board meeting. The state board members expressed their overwhelming support for Stephanie and indicated that they would like the priorities related to the department focused on literacy, learning loss, and career-tech/workforce readiness. She is also going to have staff return to the office on a full-time basis.

**D. Membership**

**1. 2022/2023 Membership**

Membership dues have been emailed and payments are being received.

**2. Executive Committee Openings**

Several superintendents are moving into new positions, which leaves three openings for the Alliance's executive board. Tony will reach out to recommended superintendents to fill the open positions. Jason Fine has agreed to join the Executive Board starting July 2022.

**3. Annual Luncheon on Schedule for November**

The Board was asked to consider who should be this year's speaker for discussion at the next meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE / SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE**

A summary of the meeting held on June 3, 2022, 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 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 will be searching 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**


No business discussed in this section.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2022, at BASA's office.

**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 June 22, 2022.

  
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Jeff Brown, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director