

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

March 22, 2023

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 March 22, 2023, in the BASA Conference Room located at 8050 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Robert Scott	Avon Lake City School District
Scot Prebles	Bay Village City School District
Mike Hanlon	Chardon Local School District
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City School District
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Andy Culp	Grandview Heights School District
Greg Sears	Kings Local School District
Steve Estapp	Mariemont City School District
Thomas Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Tom Burton	Princeton City 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
Trent Bowers	Worthington 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 March 1, 2023, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Bob Scott moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for March 1, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for February 2023. Tony indicated that revenue and expenditures remain on target as we move into the second half of the fiscal year. Tony explained the Annual Luncheon deposit was paid to hold the area for the 2023 annual meeting.

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 reports for February 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Major Bills Under Consideration:

1. Budget

a. **HB 1 (Mathews) - Revisions to property taxation and income tax rates**

- Repeals the graduated income tax rates that apply to nonbusiness income (currently ranging from 2.765% to 3.99%), and instead levies a flat income tax rate of \$360.69 plus 2.75% on all income over \$26,050.
- Decreases the assessment rate, from 35% to 31.5%, and indexes the 31.5% rate so that it decreases in proportion to the increase in inflation.
- Repeals the 10% tax rollback on nonbusiness property.
- Modifies the 2.5% homestead tax rollback to equal a flat \$125 property tax credit for all owner-occupied homes.
- Establishes an enhanced homestead exemption for certain long-term homeowners who qualify for the general homestead exemption, and indexes for all homestead exemptions, the amount of the exemption so that the exemption, and resulting tax savings, increases in proportion to the increase in inflation.

b. **HB 10 (Callender/Sweeney) Expresses the intent to continue phasing-in the FSFP and, if practicable, fully phase it in**

Contains placeholder language to continue the phase-in of the Fair School Funding Plan.

c. **HB 33 (Edwards) Main Operating Budget (Budget Bill)**

House Bill 33, the biennial budget bill, has future hearing dates available for public testimony scheduled for March 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 22, and 23. Contact Will if you are interested in testifying.

2. Choice

a. **SB11 (O'Brien) Universal eligibility of Ed Choice Scholarships (Parent Educational Freedom Act)**

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 received a first hearing on Feb. 7.

b. **HB 11 (McClain/John) Creates the Backpack Scholarship Program (the Backpack Bill)**

- House Bill 11 A third hearing on this bill is not yet scheduled. Tony expects to testify on HB11 focusing on fiscal accountability, academic accountability and accessibility and opportunity for students.
- Qualifies for a Backpack voucher every Ohio student, including existing non-voucher students already attending chartered nonpublic (private) schools and incoming kindergartners.
- Provides a state-paid voucher of \$5,500 or \$7,500 for private school tuition or for specified "educational goods and services" at non-chartered non-public schools and for homeschoolers.
- Reduces frequency of state test administration for grades 1-8 by requiring testing every other year on a school-selected test that is a nationally recognized measure of achievement; applies current high school testing and graduation requirements; and
- LSC estimates it will cost the state \$1.13 billion immediately and annually thereafter to pay for existing non-voucher private school students, homeschool students, and non-chartered non-public school students.

3. **SBOE/ODE**

- a. **SB 1 (Reineke) Reform function, responsibilities, accountability of state education office to emphasize education, workforce development.**
Pending in the House Economic and Workforce Development Committee. Creates the Department of Education and Workforce and revises duties of State Board of Education.
- b. **HB 12 (Jones/Dobos) Reform function, responsibilities, accountability of state education office to emphasize education, workforce development.**
The House companion bill to Senate Bill 1.

4. **Other**

- a. **SB 49 (Reynolds) Requires each kindergarten through 12 public school to adopt a policy providing students with religious accommodations (Religious Expression Days "R.E.D." Act)**
- Requires each public school to adopt a policy that reasonably accommodates the sincerely held religious beliefs and practices of students, which includes three excused absences for religious expression days.
 - Requires each public school to adopt a policy permitting teachers and staff to take up to three days of religious expression leave per school year.
 - Entitles the bill the "Religious Expression Days" or "R.E.D." Act.
 - Bill was amended in the first hearing to remove the mandated 3 leave days for school employees.
- b. **HB 6 (Powell) Require schools, colleges, and universities to designate separate single-sex teams and sports for each sex (Save Women Sports Act)**
- Requires the designation of separate athletic teams for participants of the female sex and male sex.
 - Explicitly prohibits male participants from participating on teams or in competitions designated only for participants of the female sex.
 - Does not include previous versions' provisions regarding gender exams.
 - Applies the bill's provisions to K-12 and higher education.
- c. **HB 8 (Swearingen/Carruthers) Requires public schools to adopt a policy on parental notification on student health and well-being and instructional materials with sexually explicit content (Parent's Bill of Rights)**
- Prohibits school personnel from encouraging a student to withhold from a parent information concerning the student's health or well-being, unless that disclosure would result in abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
 - Establishes a process under which the district or school must resolve written concerns submitted by parents about topics addressed in the bill.
 - Requires a notice to parents about sexually explicit instructional materials, an opportunity to review them, and an opportunity to request alternative instruction.
 - Requires a notice to parents about school-provided healthcare services and requires districts to create a healthcare plan for students.
 - Requires a notice to parents about changes to the health services that provide a safe learning environment; and
 - Titles the bill the Parents' Bill of Rights.
- d. **HB 38 (Blackshear/Miranda) Allows school districts to permit students to take up to three mental health days away from school each school year.**
Creates a permissive tool for schools to allow students to take up to three mental health days each school year.

- e. **HB 47 (Brown/Bird) Requires the placement of AEDs in public and private schools.**
Requires, rather than permits under current law, the placement of AEDs in each building and requires an emergency action plan for their use.

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

- 1. **Reps. Jamie Callender, Tom Patton, Gayle Manning, Haraz Ghanbari, Tracy Richardson, DJ Swearingen, Bride Rose Sweeney, and Phil Robinson**

C. ODE/State Board of Education

1. Ohio's Comprehensive Literacy Strategy – 3/23/23 Literacy Event

Tony continues to be involved in strategic discussions with several stakeholder groups addressing a comprehensive approach to K-3 literacy. We anticipate the governor's budget proposal to include reforms in this space with funding to assist schools with implementation. Will and Tony will send a proposal to the Executive Committee and then members for their review and discussion following the March 22 Executive Committee meeting. It is also a State School Board and ODE priority.

D. Membership

1. 2022/2023 Membership – Danbury BOE Presentation

Tony was invited to the Danbury BOE meeting, and we believe Danbury will be joining the Alliance.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held March 24, 2023, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT


Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for April 26, 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 March 22, 2023.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director