

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

April 26, 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 April 26, 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
Jason Fine	Bexley 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 Estep	Mariemont City School District
Thomas Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon 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 22, 2023, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Fred Bolden moved, and Chad Hilliker seconded the approval of the minutes for March 22, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for March 2023. Tony indicated that we are in the last quarter for this year and remain on target in terms of overall budget projections.

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

Steve Estep moved, and Mike Hanlon seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for March 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

B. PAC Account

Tony mentioned that a PAC request letter was included in the packet for today's meeting. He reminded the committee that the support from the contributions made to the Alliance PAC helps to maintain the Alliance's visibility at the Statehouse, the Governor's Office, and Cabinet. Members were reminded that donations must be individual donations.

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 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 HB 11 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 Bills Under Consideration**

- a. **HB 8 (Swearingen/Carruthers) 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.
- b. **SB 47 (S. Huffman) Prohibition on public employee compensation for political and lobbying activities**
- Prohibits public employers from providing, or agreeing to such a provision in a collective bargaining agreement, paid leave, or any other form of compensation for a public employee to engage in either:
 - (1) Political activities performed by, or on behalf of, an employee organization that involve advocating for the election or defeat of any political candidate;
 - (2) Lobbying activities performed by, or on behalf of, an employee organization that involve attempting to influence the passage or defeat of federal or state legislation, local ordinances, or any ballot measure.
- c. **SB 104 (Cirino/Brenner) College Credit Plus**
- Establishes the following payment system for textbook costs under College Credit Plus:
 - (1) For colleges that use purchase-only textbooks when open-source materials exist, the college must pay for the textbook.
 - (2) For colleges that use purchase-only textbooks when open-source materials do not exist, the textbook costs are split 50/50 among the high school and college.
 - Establishes a monitoring and compliance enforcement system for school districts with regard to their compliance with ORC 3365.04 (information regarding and promotion of the program), 3365.05 (requirements for participants), and 3365.072 (open-source materials and textbook costs).
 - Requires the collection of data relative to the actual cost of programming under CCP, which must be submitted to the Auditor of State (AOS) who must review and audit that data.
 - Modifies the timeline by which students must notify the school principal of their intent to participate in CCP to occur by a date specified by the Chancellor of Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE), in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (current law, instead, sets an April 1 deadline for the following school year).
 - Adds, as a non-graded, a report-only element on the report card indicating whether the school district or building provides information about and promotes CCP, notated with a "yes" or "no." Requires the Chancellor of ODHE to establish an alternative credentialing process to certify instructors.
 - Requires public and private high schools to "use the forms developed by the chancellor and state superintendent."

- d. **HJR 1 (Stewart) Increase threshold to 60% for constitutional amendments.**
Authorizes an amendment to the state constitution to increase the voter approval threshold from 50% to 60%.
- e. **SJR 2 (McColley/Gavarone) Increase threshold to 60% for constitutional amendments.**
Authorizes an amendment to the state constitution to increase the voter approval threshold from 50% to 60%.
- f. **SB 92 (McColley/Gavarone) Restore August special election for statewide ballot issue.**
Allows the General Assembly to place a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot at an August special election, if authorized by a joint resolution.

B. ODE/State Board of Education

- 1. **Update on selection of interim state superintendent**
Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction Stephanie Siddens will announce recommendations to succeed her as interim. Rumored recommendations include Jessica Voltolini, Chris Woolard, and Carolyn Everidge-Frey. A decision on the selection may occur at its May meeting.

C. Membership

Dues will be emailed to members May 5, 2023, thru May 15, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held April 28, 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 11:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 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 April 26, 2023.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podajil, Executive Director