

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

April 24, 2024

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:02 a.m. on April 24, 2024.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

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
Greg Sears	Kings Local School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Jonathan Cooper	Mason City School District
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Scott Goggin	Westlake City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil, and William Schwartz, Legislative Consultant.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was held.

**MINUTES**

Executive Committee meeting minutes from March 2024, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Jonathan Cooper moved, and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the minutes for March 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**A. Fiscal Report**

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for March 2024. Tony indicated that the budget continues to be on target. The Executive Director contract will be discussed at the next meeting.

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

Chad Hilliker moved, and Mike Hanlon seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for March 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Major Bills of Concern to Membership:**

**a. HB 2- Capital Appropriations Bill (House)**

The Senate has not yet taken action on any capital appropriations measure except for HB 27 when it sent a partial capital budget measure to the House. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Matt Dolan is still reviewing capital budget requests and a package is expected to be unveiled at the end of May.

**b. HB 27 – Capital Appropriations Bill (Senate)**

The Senate in February sent HB 27 to the House with partial capital budget spending, including \$600 million in school facilities funding via the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission. This action appears in response to the House's passage of HB 2, to which the Senate via Senate President publicly objected. Chairman Dolan is likely to unveil the Senate's capital spending and One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund spending in late May.

c. HB 8 – Parents Bill of Rights

The bill is still pending a committee vote in the Senate. It is expected the bill will be passed in the coming weeks before the summer recess.

d. HB 183 – The Bathroom Bill

The bill was passed out of the House Higher Education Committee on April 10. A House vote is imminent and will likely occur before the summer recess.

e. HB 187 – Property Tax Homestead Exemption

The bill is still awaiting a House concurrence vote after the Senate passed the bill on December 6. It is unlikely the House will pass the bill in its current form.

f. HB 250 – Military Diploma Seal and Cell Phone Policy

The bill passed the Senate unanimously on April 24 and returns to the House for concurrence vote. It's likely the House will pass the bill at its next session, sending it to Gov. DeWine for his signature.

g. HB 339 – Education Savings Accounts

The bill is still pending in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and is awaiting a third hearing for all testimony, which could occur before the summer recess.

h. HB 344 – Replacement Levies and Property Tax Complaints

The bill was amended to reduce the bill's penalties and require complainants to file an affidavit indicating whether or not they are filing on behalf of a school district. The bill is pending a committee vote, which is expected to occur at its April 30 meeting.

i. HB 407- Private School Accountability and Transparency

The bill received sponsor testimony and is expected to receive proponent testimony in late May.

j. HB 432 – Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility

The bill received proponent testimony this week and is expected to undergo modifications and likely passage out of committee before the summer recess.

k. HB 445- Required Religious Release Time Policy

The bill received sponsor testimony in the House but has yet to receive another hearing for proponent testimony.

l. SB 17- Capitalism and Financial Literacy

Gov. Mike DeWine signed the bill into law, which now is effective June 12, 2024.

m. SB 29 – Student Technology Records

The bill received sponsor testimony in the House but is still pending a second hearing in House committee.

n. SB 49 – Student Attendance Policies

The bill is still pending in House committee where it last received a hearing in September of 2023. It is unlikely this bill advances before the summer recess.

o. SB 104– College Credit Plus

The bill, which passed the Senate in February, is pending a committee referral in the House. A companion bill, HB 219, is pending in House committee.

p. SB 162 – Academic Intervention Plans

The bill that requires academic intervention plans awaits a first hearing in the House after being passed by the Senate in 2023.

q. SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility

The bill received proponent testimony from the Alliance and other statewide education associations. Several additional hearings on this bill are expected with at least one hearing devoted to accepting amendments on various provisions in the bill.

r. SB 205- Drug Prevention Education

The bill was amended in Senate committee last week and awaits a fourth hearing and vote in the committee, which is expected before the summer recess.

s. SB 208 – Open Enrollment for Military Children

The bill received a third hearing last week with minimal testimony. A vote is likely to occur before the summer recess.

**B. DEW/State Board of Education**

a. Ohio AI Taskforce

Tony was invited to participate in the first of several meetings of the Ohio AI Taskforce, beginning May 14. The taskforce is created by DEW, Lt. Gov. Jon Husted, and Ohio Excels.

b. Right to Read Event 4-17-24

The Right to Read Event flyer was electronically distributed to members prior to the meeting.

C. Other Issues

a. State of the State

Gov. DeWine on April 10 gave his 2024 State of the State address. Key proposals include: (1) a requirement for all Ohio schools to adopt a smartphone policy that will minimize phone usage by students in the classroom and make those policies available to parents and communities; (2) a new law that is informed by the concerns expressed by Judge Marbley in his federal preliminary injunction ruling and ensure the new law is constitutional and will accomplish the goals of the original Social Media Parental Notification Act; (3) creation of a "Principal Apprenticeship Program" at the Department of Education and Workforce to allow aspiring principals to watch veteran principals in action, through hands-on, in-school training that will better prepare them for the challenges of the job; and (4) a requirement that career planning to be inserted into the existing graduation plan requirements so that every Ohio student leaves school on a career pathway.

b. Senate Select Committee on Housing

The committee submitted its recommendations, many of which are being drafted as standalone legislation (SB 243 (zoning), SB 244 (partial property tax exemption), SB 245 (housing laws), SB 249 (grants for property taxes).

c. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform

The committee heard testimony from school treasurers, superintendents, and a former Tax Department employee at its April 24 meeting. A report from the committee is due by December 31, 2024.

D. Membership

Invoices for membership dues will be sent out before May 15, 2024.

**LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The next meeting will be held April 26, 2024, 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 9:41 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2024, 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 24, 2024.

  
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Jeff Brown, Chairperson

  
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Tony Podojil, Executive Director