

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

February 28, 2024

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 9:33 a.m. on February 28, 2024. The meeting was held at 8050 North High St. Second Floor, Law Library, Columbus, Ohio.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

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
John Marschhausen	Dublin City School District
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Jonathan Cooper	Mason City School District
Mike Barnes	Mayfield City School District
Tom Hosler	Perrysburg Exempted Village School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Kathi Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Scott Goggin	Westlake City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil, and William Schwartz, Legislative Consultant representing The WRS Group LLC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairperson Jeff Brown requested at 9:34a.m. that the committee move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel concern. Chad Hilliker moved, and Jason Fine seconded, that the committee move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 9:41 am and the regular meeting continued.

MINUTES

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

Steve Estep moved, and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the minutes for January 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for January 2024. Tony indicated that the budget continues to be on target. Tony also pointed out the deposit for the next luncheon was paid to the Hilton.

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

Jason Fine moved, and Tom Hosler seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for January 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Major Bills of Concern to Membership:

a. HB 2- Capital Appropriations Bill

The Senate will not take any action on HB 2 until mid-April at the soonest as Senators have until April 8 to submit capital budget requests to Senate Finance Chairman Matt Dolan. Meanwhile, the Senate sent HB 27 to the house with partial capital budget spending, including \$600 million in school facilities funding via the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission.

b. HB 8 – Parents Bill of Rights

Despite having an opportunity to pass the bill out of committee and the Senate before the month-long March recess, Sen. Andrew Brenner opted not to hold a hearing on the bill this week.

c. HB 183 - The Bathroom Bill

The House did not vote on the same-sex bathroom bill before departing for its March recess. A vote could occur as soon as April.

d. HB 187 – Property Tax Homestead Exemption

Only one vote – a House concurrence vote – remains for the bill that expands the homestead exemption for income-eligible seniors to reach Gov. DeWine’s desk. The House, led by House Speaker **Jason Stephens**, has repeatedly refused to bring the bill to the floor for a concurrence and is unlikely to do so for the foreseeable future. Lawmakers are directing their focus now to the joint property tax committee for deliberation on options to address rising property values across the state.

e. HB 214 – Professional Standards for School Staff

HB 214 received proponent testimony this week in the Senate Education Committee from two representatives from a school district and conservative education organization. A politically popular bill, it’s uncertain whether the rift between the House and Senate will allow the Senate to advance the House bill.

f. HB 339 – Education Savings Accounts

Rep. Adam Bird, Chairman of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, indicated he will likely hold a third hearing for opponent testimony as soon as April 9 on the bill that would create educational savings accounts for students in non-chartered, nonpublic schools. The bill is unlikely to be enacted in a non-budget year.

g. HB 344 - Replacement Levies and Property Tax Complaints

The House is expected to pass the bill, which eliminates replacement levies and narrows the property tax complaint process, when it returns in April from its March recess.

h. HB 250- Military Diploma Seal

The bill received a second hearing in the Senate Education Committee this week but there were no witnesses for the bill. Given the popular provisions of the bill and how few provisions exist within it, this bill could become a Christmas tree bill for the lame duck legislative session.

i. SB 17- Capitalism and Financial Literacy

The Senate sent SB 17 to the governor for his signature. The bill erroneously requires the State Board of Education and not the Department of Education and Workforce to adopt standards and curricula incorporating capitalism into financial literacy. A corrective amendment will be necessary for another bill.

j. SB 29 - Student Technology Records

The House has yet to hold a hearing on the bill that would prohibit technology providers from using student technology data for commercial purposes and prohibit districts from accessing or monitoring student communications on school-issued devices, with exceptions.

k. SB 49 – Student Attendance Policies

Time is running out for changes to student attendance policies to be enacted in time for the 2024-25 school year, and Rep. Bird has his sights on SB 49 to make those modifications before lawmakers depart for their summer recess in mid-June.

l. SB 104– College Credit Plus

The Senate passed the bill this week, which makes modifications to the College Credit Plus program. Prior to that vote, a Senate committee stripped from the bill provisions that would have required cost-sharing for textbook fees between colleges and universities and school districts when a student uses a textbook that is not an open-source, or free, material.

m. SB 162 – Academic Intervention Plans

Despite several opportunities to do so, the House has not brought the bill up for a first hearing for sponsor testimony in the committee. It’s expected that will happen in April with the legislature reconvenes.

n. SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility

The House held sponsor testimony on the bill that provides deregulation and flexibility relief to districts and modifies licensure requirements. A second hearing for proponent testimony is expected in April, with additional modifications planned to the bill. It is anticipated this bill will pass committee before June but may not be enacted due to the political rift in the legislature.

o. SB 205- Drug Prevention Education

The bill, which would require annual instruction in drug prevention education and include in that education the effects of marijuana and “illicit exogenous substances,” received proponent testimony in the Senate Education Committee. Written testimony was provided by local ADAMHS boards, county behavioral health organizations, and Life Changing Experiences.

B. DEW/State Board of Education

- a. Dackin Invite to March Meeting

Director Dackin plans to attend our next Executive Committee meeting on March 29, 2024.

- b. Reading and Math Literacy

We continue to meet with our coalition partners, Ohio Excels and others, to discuss the state's literacy strategy and, also a new math strategy.

- c. DEW Attendance Proposal

The attendance proposal from DEW is still pending and has yet to materialize in a legislative vehicle. It's anticipated that the recommendations may be included in a bill before lawmakers depart in June for summer recess.

C. Other Issues

- a. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform

The committee continues to hear testimony from invited groups, and schools are expected to be invited to testify in April. A report from the committee is due by December 31, 2024.

- b. Social Media Parental Notification Act

A federal lawsuit has temporarily halted the implementation of the act.

- c. Cell Phones in Schools

The administration is considering a bill to prohibit cell phones in schools and members are encouraged to report their cell phone policies to the Alliance.

- d. OFCC + Capital Budget

The House passed its capital budget proposal in February. The Senate, meanwhile, will work on its capital budget in April and May, with a final package to be enacted in June.

D. Membership

1. Ohio Statewide Survey

The Alliance decided not to participate in the Fallon Survey but plans to participate in the next survey.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held March 29, 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 11:08 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 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 February 28, 2024.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director