

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

January 24, 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 9:30 a.m. on January 24, 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
Brian Poe	Copley-Fairlawn City School District
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Steve Estep	Mariemont City School District
Jonathan Cooper	Mason City School District
Michael Shoaf	Rocky River City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon 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 9:33a.m. that the committee move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel concern. Fred Bolden moved, and Trent Bowers seconded, that the committee move into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously. Executive Session ended at 9:49 am and the regular meeting continued.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from October 2023, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Kathi Powers moved, and Brian Poe seconded the approval of the minutes for October 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for October, November, and December 2023. Tony indicated that the budget continues to be on target as we moved into the second half of the fiscal year.

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

Trent Bowers moved, and Scot Prebles seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for October, November, and December 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Major Bills of Concern to Membership:

- a. HB 8 – Parents Bill of Rights
This bill was marked for a vote in December, which did not occur. It is anticipated the bill could be passed by the Senate during their February meeting.
- b. HB 68 - SAFE Act and Save Women's Sports Act
This bill was signed into law by Gov. DeWine in December and the House met on Jan. 10 to override his veto. The Senate meets today – Jan. 24 – and is expected to override the veto, making the bill become law effective in April. A lawsuit is expected to be filed challenging the constitutionality of the law.
- c. HB 183 - The Bathroom Bill
The bill is expected to receive a committee vote and a potential House floor vote. Doing so would allow House Republicans with primary election challengers to show voters their conservative credentials with a vote in support of the bill. Timing will be key as only one more House session is scheduled for February and then not again until April.
- d. HB 187/SB 153 – Property Tax Valuation Changes
The House has yet to bring up HB 187 for a final concurrence vote and is not expected to do so. The legislature appears to be focusing its attention on property taxes via the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform.
- e. HB 206 - Expulsion Policies
This bill passed committee, but Speaker Stephens has not placed the bill on the floor for a full vote of the House.
- f. HB 214 – Professional Standards for School Staff
HB 214 passed the House in November and has since received one hearing in the Senate.
- g. HB 344 - Replacement Levies and Property Tax Complaint levies
HB 344 could be passed by the House Ways and Means Committee – and potentially the House before its March recess. Should that not occur, there appears to be momentum to send the bill to the Senate before the summer recess.
- h. SB 29 - Student Technology Records
The House has not brought SB 29 up for a committee vote but it is expected some of the school prohibitions on monitoring student activities on school-issued devices will be modified to provide flexibility to schools.
- i. SB 49 – Student Attendance Policies
This bill is on hold as the House, Senate, governor's office, and DEW have conversations about how to address chronic absenteeism policies.
- j. SB 162 – Academic Intervention Plans
The bill passed the Senate in December and is expected to receive hearings in 2024 but receive larger scrutiny from the House.
- k. SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility
Like SB 162, the bill passed the Senate in December and is expected to be modified by the House in 2024.

B. DEW/State Board of Education

- a. Dackin Invite to March Meeting
- b. Reading and Math Literacy
- c. DEW Attendance Proposal

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 is expected to unveil its capital budget proposal soon. The Senate will work on its capital budget in April and May, with a final package to be enacted in June.

D. Membership

1. Annual Meeting - Capital Conference - Feedback

The Annual meeting was held November 13, 2023, feedback from members was positive.

2. Ohio Statewide Survey

The Alliance will participate in the Fallon Survey. Tony and Will plan to send five questions from members to be included on the survey. Tony has asked for members to send questions to be considered for the survey to him or William.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held January 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

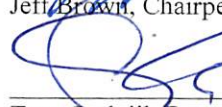
Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2024, at the BASA office and via Zoom invite.

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 January 24, 2024.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director