

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

June 26, 2024

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 10:00 a.m. on June 26, 2024.

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
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Andy Culp	Grandview Heights School District
Steve Estep	Mariemont 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
Scott Goggin	Westlake City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington 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 May 2024, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Trent Bowers moved, and Fred Bolden seconded the approval of the minutes for May 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report:

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for May 2024. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget remains on target to meet our yearly projections with one month remaining in the fiscal year.

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

Scott Prebles moved, and Mike Hanlon seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for May 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Major Bills of Concern to Membership:

a. HB 2 - Capital Appropriations Bill

The General Assembly passed House Bill 2 prior to summer recess. It contains more than \$4 billion in funding for construction, renovation, and one-time community projects.

b. HB 8 – Parents Bill of Rights

The bill is still pending a committee vote in the Senate. The Senate Education Committee amended the bill prior to summer recess and is expected to pass the bill in the lame duck legislative session.

c. HB 70 – Required Policy on OTC Drugs

The bill was passed by the Senate and received a first hearing for sponsor testimony in early June.

d. HB 147 – Educator Misconduct and Literacy Stipends

The bill was passed by the General Assembly prior to summer recess and is now pending the governor's signature. It was amended to (1) require ticket prices at school events for students to be a lesser price than the adult price; prohibit different ticket prices based on the payment method; apply these provisions to OHSAA events; permit students who have been victims of bullying or other specified crimes or offenses to participate in interscholastic athletics at a different school, subject to the approval of the receiving school's superintendent; require public schools to pay a pre-K teacher a \$1,200 stipend for completing the required Science of Reading professional development; correct a funding overpayment in the school-funding formula, beginning with fiscal year 2025; and permit a student subjected to certain qualifying offenses to participate in interscholastic athletics at a different school.

e. HB 178 – Discrimination Policies for Race-Related Traits

The bill, which passed the House in June, is still pending a first hearing in the Senate.

f. HB 183 - The Bathroom Bill

Despite no action on the bill itself, Rep. Adam Bird amended the bill into Senate Bill 104 on the House floor. That bill was subsequently passed by the House and returned to the Senate for a final concurrence vote. The Senate, however, adjourned for the summer recess and will not return until after the November general election.

g. HB 230 - Required Instruction in Fentanyl Education

The bill passed the House and is now pending in the Senate.

h. HB 344 - Replacement Levies and Property Tax Complaints

The bill passed the House Ways and Means Committee but did not receive a House vote prior to summer recess.

i. HB 407 - Private School Accountability and Transparency

The bill has received three hearings in the House and is pending a committee vote.

j. HB 432 – Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility

The bill passed the House in June and received a first hearing in the Senate on June 26.

k. HB 445 - Required Religious Release Time Policy

The bill received sponsor and proponent testimony in the House. It has yet to receive a third hearing for opponent testimony.

l. SB 29 - Student Technology Records

The bill was passed by the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee and is expected to pass the House and receive a Senate concurrence vote and then advance to Gov. DeWine on June 26.

m. SB 112 – Inspection and Repair of Protective Door Assemblies

The bill was passed by a House committee and is set to pass the House and receive concurrence by the Senate on June 26, thereby sending it to Gov. DeWine for his signature.

n. SB 168 – Deregulation and Flexibility

The bill was heavily amended and passed on June 25 in the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. The bill will be on the House's agenda on June 26 with a potential Senate concurrence vote that same day.

o. 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 will not happen before the summer recess.

p. SB 208 – Open Enrollment for Military Children

The bill passed the Senate in June and is awaiting a first hearing in the House.

B. DEW/State Board of Education:

a. Ohio AI Taskforce

Tony and members continue to engage in conversations with the AI Taskforce, DeWine-Husted administration, state agency partners, and other stakeholders.

b. DEW Lawsuit

A Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge granted Gov. Mike DeWine's motion to dismiss the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the creation of the Department of Education and Workforce. The decision effectively ends the litigation unless an appeal is filed.

c. Deputy Director Confirmation

Jeremy Varner was confirmed by the Ohio Senate in June as the Deputy Director of Career-Technical Education of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

d. Licensure Fees

There is still no confirmation on whether the State Board of Education will raise licensure fees pending a legislative appropriation.

C. Other Issues:

a. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform

The committee held its final meeting for public testimony in May. Next steps are not yet known. A report with recommendations is due December 31, 2024.

b. USDOE Title IX - TRO

Several states, including Ohio, have filed lawsuits challenging the Biden Administration's new Title IX regulations. A temporary restraining order has been issued temporarily halting those rules' implementation in Ohio and other states.

c. Funding Formula Overpayment

The Department of Education and Workforce identified a funding overpayment to schools and districts for fiscal year 2024 that will be addressed beginning in fiscal year 2025 via a legislative change. A funding claw back will not be in place.

d. STRS

The entity continues to be the subject of controversy as consulting entities terminate their agreements, members resign, and the panel is without a permanent leader.

D. Membership:

a. 2024 – 25 Dues are being received.

b. New Member

Willoughby-Eastlake Schools will have board approval July 8th.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held June 28, 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 11:00 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024, 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 June 26, 2024.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director