

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

January 29, 2025

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 9:32 a.m. on January 29, 2025, at the BASA office, 8050 N. High St., Ste. 150, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Scot Prebles	Bay Village City School District
Jason Fine	Bexley City School District
John Marschhausen	Dublin 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
Jonathan Cooper	Mason City Schools District
Mike Barnes	Mayfield City School District
Aaron Sable	Medina City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Kathryn Powers	Twinsburg City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil, William Schwartz, Legislative Consultant and guest Paul Imhoff of BASA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

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

Trent Bowers moved, and Aaron Sable seconded the approval of the minutes for October 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for October, November, and December 2024. A review of our current revenue position and expenditure projections indicates that the budget remains on target for the year.

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

Andy Culp moved, and Chad Hilliker seconded the approval of the fiscal reports for October, November and December 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Major Bills of Concern to Membership:

- a. HB 8 -Parents Bill of Rights
The bill was signed into law and takes effect April 9.
- b. HB 70 – Required Policy on OTC Drugs

- The bill was signed into law and takes effect March 20.
- c. HB 206 -Student Expulsion Policy
The bill was signed into law and takes effect April 9.
- d. HB 315 – Needs Assessment for Foster Children
The bill was signed into law and takes effect April 9.
- e. HB 432 – SB 29 Fix and Career-Technical Educator License Flexibility
The bill was signed into law. The SB 29 fixes took effect on Dec. 9, 2024, and the career-technical education provisions take effect March 10.
- f. SB 104 – CCP and the Bathroom Bill
The bill was signed into law and takes effect February 25.
- g. SB 208 – Military Open Enrollment and Omnibus Changes
The bill was signed into law and takes effect April 9.
- h. SB 234 – 988 Number on School ID Cards, Planners and Website
The bill was signed into law and takes effect April 9.

B. DEW and State Board of Education

- a. K-12 Director Appointment – Update
As of January, the K-12 director has not yet been appointed.

C. Legislative News

- a. Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform
The report of the Joint Committee on Property tax has been distributed along with a overview from Senator Blessing on his viewpoints related to the recommendations listed. This will undoubtedly be used as a basis for many of the property tax reform bills set to be dropped in the new session.
- b. House/Senate Legislative Leadership and Committee Chairs
Will reviewed the proposed legislative leadership appointments along with the chairs of the education committees in the House and Senate which will be Sarah Fowler-Arthur in the House and Andrew Brenner again in the Senate.

D. Other Issues

- a. Foundation Formula Funding – Alliance position statement
The Alliance has been meeting and working with the educational organizations to draft a common set of proposals for consideration with advancing the Foundation Formula. Those proposals have been shared with the committee. While we are in general agreement with the proposals on the list, we still have work to do to add the minimum funding floor level to that list.
- b. Property Tax Reform
We are anticipating a slew of bills addressing property tax reform measures to be part of the biennium budget process. We will need to pay particular attention to those bills that either reduce, limit or restrict property tax collections resulting in districts receiving a reduction in tax revenue without a corresponding reduction in wealth.
- c. Pupil Transportation
We have been working with Urban 8 on a series of transportation proposals that would provide improvements to many aspects of the transportation rules currently impacting districts. Once the Governor's bill is released, we will be able to determine if there are any proposals in the budget and how best we can move forward to correct some of the rule changes.
- d. College, Career and Workforce – Policy Proposals
After working with several stakeholder groups including BASA and ODEW, a list of recommendations has been formulated for consideration that would expand career readiness activities for Middle School students. One proposal, the elimination of the waiver related to Career course offerings, was discussed and based on the feedback from the committee, it's removal would not cause problems with implementing the proposals if weighted funding continued for those programs.
- e. Literacy -ELA/Math
ODEW has held several discussions with stakeholder groups, including the Alliance, related to addressing math literacy. One of the proposals, requiring eighth grade students to enroll in Algebra if the scored accomplished or advanced on the state assessment, was discussed by the committee. The group pointed out that this is already a prevailing practice in their districts. ODEW has data that indicates that upwards of 30% of those who would qualify are not currently being offered the opportunity to be enrolled. We will continue our work with ODEW and the stakeholder group and keep the committee informed.

- f. Student Wellness
Student wellness will continue to be a priority in the Governor's budget focusing on mental health and physical healthcare services.
- g. School Facility Funding
There continues to be a need to advocate for a higher percentage of OFFC participation for member districts who need large capital funding projects. We will continue to advocate for an increase in the minimum funding level from 5% to 25%.

E. Membership

- a. Capital Conference Annual Meeting – Feedback
The group was pleased with the conference and enjoyed the speakers that attended this year. We will plan to have more space for extra tables next year.
- b. Updated Membership Roster- Attached to handout
The roster was attached to the handouts for this meeting and our member directory will be sent out by the end of February.
- c. Retired Executive Member – Mike Shoaf
The group was asked to offer suggestions for a replacement.
- d. Strongsville Area Meeting with Rep. Dovilla
Tony and Will coordinated a meeting with members and nonmembers with Rep. Dovilla to discuss the coming biennium budget, and particularly the phase in of the fair school funding plan.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held January 31, 2025, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

NEW BUSINESS


No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT

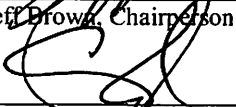
Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025, at the BASA office and via zoom.

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 29, 2025.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director