

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

October 22, 2025

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:30 a.m. on October 22, 2025.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Scott Prebles | Bay Village City Schools |
| 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 School District |
| Aaron Sable | Medina City School District |
| Roxann Ramsey-Caserio | North Ridgeville City School District |
| Jim Fritz | Oregon City School District |
| Fred Bolden | Solon City School District |
| Rob O'Leary | Vandalia-Butler City School District |
| Andy Hill | Wadsworth 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 2025, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Aaron Sable moved, and Trent Bowers seconded the approval of the minutes for September 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A. Fiscal Report

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for September 2025. Tony reported that the first quarter completed the year on target.

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

Scott Goggin moved, and Steve Estep seconded the approval of the fiscal report for September 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. HB 96 – Biennial Budget Bill – Governor Education Vetoes

(item 27) - a provision that would have created an education savings account program for non-chartered nonpublic schools

(item 51) - a provision that would have prohibited school districts from paying for the employee share of STRS or SERS contributions for superintendents, treasurers, and principals

(item 53) - a provision that would have required school board candidates to have a political affiliation on the ballot for elections

- Items 27, 51, and 53 were vetoed by the Governor and did not face an override challenge in the House.

(item 55) - a provision that would have allowed county budget commissions to reduce property taxes on nondebt levies (**veto override consideration**)

(item 63) - a provision that would have established a 40% cap on school carryover balances (**veto override consideration**)

(item 65) - a provision that would have included emergency levies, substitute levies, incremental growth levies, conversion levies, and combined school district income tax and property tax levies into the calculation of the 20-mill floor (**veto override consideration**)

(item 66)- a provision that would have eliminated replacement levies, fixed-sum emergency levies, substitute emergency levies, and combined school district income tax and fixed-sum property tax levies (**veto override consideration**)

- Item 66 was overridden in the House by a veto (61-28) on July 21. The other three items have not yet been addressed in the House. The Senate has yet to override Item 66 and has indicated they would be in a position to support all four overrides once they get them from the House. Action is expected on the current override (66) as well as 55, 63, and 65 beginning on October 1. The Legislature can override any vetoes until December 31, 2026.

2. **HB420, HB421, HB422 – Taxpayers Freedom Trilogy**

The package of bills introduced by Rep Click includes three separate bills addressing a variety of property tax proposals:

- House Bill 1: “Discontinuing the Continuum” – eliminates perpetual tax levies and requires voter approval for renewals. All existing levies would expire by 2030.
- House Bill 2: “Arresting the Inside Millage” – gives voters the power to reduce the property tax rates local governments can impose without a public vote.
- House Bill 3: “Triumph of the Taxpayer” – changes voter approval thresholds for new levies, making it harder to raise taxes.

3. **HB129, HB186, HB309 – House Ways and Means Committee**

HB129

Requires that current expense fixed-sum levies and school district income taxes be included in the calculation of a school district’s 20-mill floor or a joint vocational school district’s 2-mill floor for property tax purposes.

Prohibits a school district from shifting the purpose of its unvoted property tax millage in a way that would increase the district’s tax revenue.

HB 186 Amended

The sub bill of House Bill 186, known as the Inflation Cap Credit, aims to provide long-term property relief to Ohio homeowners by implementing a mechanism that limits how much additional revenue school districts can receive if they are at the 20-mill floor. This applies to JVSDs on their 2-mill floor. It has been in development since November 2024 and is set to provide savings for eligible taxpayers across all 88 counties on tax bills slated for the second half of 2026. By the end of 2027, this credit will have achieved meaningful taxpayer savings amounting to \$1.7 billion. The bill does not remove the ability for schools to receive additional tax revenue as property values increase over time, but it ensures that taxpayers are protected from property tax hikes caused by valuation spikes.

HB309

Requires a public body that levies property taxes and that does not currently submit information to a different body for inclusion in its tax budget to submit a tax budget to a county budget commission (CBC) on its own behalf by changing the definition of “taxing authority” to encompass such bodies.

Requires each health district that does not file an estimate of contemplated revenue and expenditures with a taxing authority for inclusion in that taxing authority’s tax budget to submit a tax budget on its own behalf.

Requires a tax budget to include an estimate of estimated expenses through the end of the fiscal year in which it is submitted.

Requires a taxing unit that anticipates increased revenue collections on inside millage due to increased valuations or because of the 20-mill floor to state in its tax budget an intent to collect or forgo the increased revenue.

Requires the CBC to reduce levy rates accordingly if the taxing unit opts to forgo the increased revenue and prevents a school district from losing state funding if the request results in the district levying total current expense levies of less than 20 mills.

4. HB 473 – Prohibit Playing the Employer Contribution for STRS/SERS

Prohibits a public employer from paying employee contributions on an employee’s behalf to a state retirement system, except that the contributions may be treated as employer contributions for favorable tax purposes.

Makes the payment of employee contributions by a public employer on an employee’s behalf to a state retirement system not an appropriate subject for collective bargaining for future collective bargaining agreements.

5. Governor’s Property Tax Work Group

Final Recommendations – 9/25

The focus has been on refining four property tax line-item vetoes and other property tax reform and relief measures.

Other topics

- House Bill 186, applying to inside millage and 20-mill floor districts
- Property tax forgiveness, deferral, and circuit breaker programs
- Ballot language transparency and disclaimers
- LLC loophole for residential property • Review of property tax exemptions
- County commissioner approval of levy requests from non-elected entities
- Apply commercial CRA school authority to residential CRAs
- Creation of new working group to evaluate local government efficiencies/consolidation

6. ODEW – School Report Card Release

College, Career, Workforce and Military Report Card Component

Chris Woolard joined the call to hear feedback from the group; there was general support for the two provisions in HB445 (Manning and Bird). See below.

Post-secondary readiness measure Under continuing law, the post-secondary readiness measure is based on the percentage of students in a school district or school’s four-year adjusted graduation cohort who demonstrate readiness by meeting at least one of several different conditions. Under

one of those conditions, a student demonstrates readiness by earning 12 college credits through an advanced standing program, such as the College Credit Plus Program. **The bill permits a student to earn college credit, or the equivalent, toward that goal through a Office of Research and Drafting LSC Legislative Budget Office combination of advanced standing programs and AP exams, IB exams, or college-level examination program (CLEP) exams.** Continuing law permits a student to demonstrate readiness, under a different condition, by earning designated scores on three or more AP, IB, or CLEP exams.

New performance measure for CCWMR The bill creates a new performance measure to be factored into the calculation of CCWMR performance ratings. **That performance measure is based on the percentage of students from the prior school year's four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate who did not demonstrate readiness on the post-secondary readiness measure, but who, within one year of graduating high school, completed one academic year of college credits at an institution of higher education without taking remedial courses.** The bill requires the Department, to the extent possible, to include the students who meet the requirements under the new measure in the calculation of CCWMR. The bill requires the Chancellor of Higher Education to collect and report the data necessary for the Department to calculate the measure. Districts may also report relevant data on each cohort until the date by which the Chancellor must report data for that cohort.

MEMBERSHIP

Oakwood Schools is requesting information about joining the Alliance.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held October 24, 2025, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

The speakers for the Alliance Annual Luncheon have been contacted, and we are waiting confirmation from them.

NEW BUSINESS

Tony attended the Rep. Bird Fundraiser

ADJOURNMENT


Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2025, at the Hilton Luncheon.

CERTIFICATE

I, Jeff Browns, 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 October 22, 2025.



Jeff Brown, Chairperson



Tony Podojil, Executive Director