THE ALLIANCE FOR HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2026

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High-Quality Education at 9:34 a.m. on August 26, 2026.

Those members in attendance from the Executive Committee were:

Scot Prebles	Bay Village City School District
Jason Fine	Bexley City School District
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Andy Culp	Grandview Heights School District
Greg Sears	Kings Local School District
Steve Estepp	Mariemont City School District
Jonathan Cooper	Mason City School District
Mike Barnes	Mayfield City School District
Aaron Sable	Medina City School District
Roxann Ramsey-Caserio	North Ridgeville City School District
Fred Bolden	Solon City School District
Rob O'Leary	Vandalia-Butler City School District
Andrew Hill	Wadsworth City School District
Scott Goggin	Westlake City School District
Trent Bowers	Worthington City School District

Also, present, Alliance Executive Director Tony Podojil, guest Chad Gossett, and William Schwartz, Legislative Consultant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

MINUTES

Executive Committee meeting minutes from June 2026 were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Aaron Sable moved, and Jonathan Cooper seconded the approval of the minutes for June 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for June 2026 and the close of the 25/26 fiscal year. Tony reviewed membership revenue and expense variances, including lower than budgeted dues collections, higher luncheon costs and an increase in employee benefit costs. As the budget closes for 2026, the cash balance remains on target with approximately six months of reserves (4 dedicated to cash flow and 2 dedicated to special projects.

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

Steve Estepp moved, and Andy Culp seconded the approval of the fiscal report for June 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Political Update, Lame Duck Session, Biennium Budget**

Will provided an update to the group on the current election cycle, what to anticipate during lame duck and plans for the next biennium budget for the organization.

Tony indicated that we have been in contact with both governor campaigns and are planning on what approach to take during lame duck depending on the outcome in November.

The focus on the biennium budget will be primarily on what happens to the school funding formula. Jeff Brown suggested that we survey members to determine which components of the formula should be considered priorities for the organization. Tony and Will will design an instrument to get that information from members over the next several months.

2. **Bills Passed during June Session and signed by Governor (Written update provided as a reference)**

1. HB 455 – School Regulations

Department of Education and Workforce Development

- Revises the performance measures used to calculate performance ratings for the state report card's College, Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness and Graduation components.

Districts and schools

- Prohibits the removal of member of a school district board of education or ESC governing board for absence without a sufficient reason if the reason is that the person is an active or reserve member of the U.S. armed forces or the Ohio National Guard and is deployed outside the territory of the district or ESC.

- Adds community schools and STEM schools to the types of schools that may request Department approval to establish an innovative education pilot program.

- Revises the timelines under which a school district board of education or educational service center governing board must (1) vote on whether to declare a board member's reason for a 90-day absence is insufficient and (2) fill the vacancy of an elected board member.

- Permits any student attending an internet- or computer-based community school (e-school) to complete state assessments remotely in an online format with a remote proctor, if specified conditions are met.

- Revises the automatic closure criteria for community schools.

Other

- Allows a 14- or 15-year-old to be employed between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. any night preceding a day school is not in session if the minor has approval to do so from a parent or legal guardian.

- Requires a minor who wishes to receive an age and schooling certificate (commonly referred to as a "work permit") to submit a minor work hour notification form that is signed by the child's parent or legal guardian.

- Allows a juvenile court to maintain school-year jurisdiction over a child that is adjudicated to an unruly child for being a habitual truant for purposes of monitoring the child's attendance.

- Modifies the offense of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child so that any person who acts in a way that contributes to a child being a habitual truant is guilty of the offense.

2. SB 19 – Math Intervention and Improvement

Diagnostic assessments

- Eliminates the requirement that the Department of Education and Workforce adopt a diagnostic assessment for grades K-3 in reading.

▪ Instead, requires the Department to approve a list of up to six reading diagnostic assessments for grades K-3, and on the bill's effective date, add a sixth diagnostic to the approved list of math diagnostic assessments. o Requires that additional assessment to be the one that scored the sixth highest in the Department's most recent evaluation of diagnostic assessments.

▪ Prohibits a school district, community school, or STEM school from administering diagnostic assessments from multiple providers in reading or math to the same student in grades K-3 unless certain criteria apply, and to receive higher ratings on the state report card.

▪ Permits a provider that offers a reading diagnostic assessment approved under the law in effect prior to the bill's effective date to apply to the Department for a waiver to permit public schools to use another reading diagnostic assessment offered by that provider.

▪ Permits a public school that has a contract that existed prior to September 30, 2025, with a provider for a reading diagnostic assessment approved by the Department prior to that date to continue to use that provider's diagnostic assessment.

Academic intervention services and math improvement
▪ Requires each district or school to provide evidence-based academic intervention services, free of cost, to students who demonstrate a limited level of skill in either a prescribed state diagnostic assessment or a state assessment, in math, English language arts, or both subject areas.

▪ Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, requires each district or school to develop a math achievement improvement plan if 51% or less of a building or school's students who took the third-grade math achievement assessment attained at least a proficient score on the assessment.

▪ Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, and each school year thereafter, requires the Department of Education and Workforce to randomly select 5% of districts and schools for a review of their academic intervention services.

▪ Requires the Department to, not later than 30 days after the bill's effective date, open an application period to update its list of high-quality tutoring programs and update the list accordingly.

Math and reading curricula, instructional materials, and intervention.
▪ Requires the Department to, by April 15, 2027, to review core math curricula and establish a list of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials in math and a list of evidence-based math intervention programs, that are aligned with state standards and best practices.

▪ Requires the Department to establish a rubric and scoring system to evaluate core math and English language arts curricula based upon whether or the extent to which a curriculum facilitates a student's skill building and sequential advancement through mastery.

▪ Requires the Department to include in a school building's state report card as nongraded data the reading and math curricula used in the building and whether the curriculum is designated as high-quality by the Department.

▪ Permits public schools to use Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid for professional development on evidence-based strategies for effective math instruction and the implementation of math curriculum from the Department of Education and Workforce's list of high-quality core curriculum and instructional materials.

Advanced learning opportunities in math
▪ Eliminates current law regarding advanced math courses and learning opportunities and instead requires each public school, beginning July 1, 2026, to:

o Enroll each qualifying student in sixth grade in a math course in seventh grade that combines in one school year seventh- and eighth-grade math standards and in Algebra I in the eighth grade;

o Enroll each qualifying student in grades 3-5 in advanced learning opportunities in math; and

o Adopt a comprehensive math placement and promotion policy.

▪ Qualifies for automatic enrollment in advanced math courses or advanced learning opportunities each student who meets a school's choice of multiple measures under one of the following:

o The student achieves an accomplished level of skill on a math achievement assessment, and the student holds an average class grade of "A" or "B" in a math course;

o The student achieves a designated score, as determined by the Department, on a math diagnostic assessment and an accomplished level of skill on a math achievement assessment.

▪ Requires the Department to adopt rules regarding the placement of students in an advanced math course and, not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, designate a score that reflects an accomplished level of skill on a math diagnostic assessment.

▪ Permits each public school to provide additional students with advanced math learning opportunities.

Math teacher proficiency and professional development
▪ Requires the Department to develop a professional development course focusing on foundational knowledge in math and integrates life skills and, by December 31, 2026, develop a pilot series of professional development programs for school and regional educational leaders on evidence-based math instruction.

▪ Requires the State Board of Education to assess the math proficiency of each applicant for a new valid educator license with a pre-K-8 grade band and who may be assigned to teach math.

Autism scholarship program
▪ Qualifies for the Autism scholarship program a child who has been diagnosed as autistic by a physician or psychologist, is enrolled in a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school, is home educated, or is a student older than compulsory school age and less than 22 years of age and received a home education and has not received a diploma, and has an education plan developed by the school district in which the child is entitled to attend school that includes transitional services.

Patriotic youth organizations
▪ Requires a school district, at the request of certain federally recognized youth organizations, to permit a representative of that organization to speak with and distribute informational materials to students during school hours for up to ten minutes during the school day at least once per school year.

Innovative education programs
▪ Permits community and STEM schools to request approval from the Department to establish an innovative education pilot program.

▪ Adds the implementation of the Science of Reading to the list of requirements from which a public school, educational service center (ESC), or chartered nonpublic school may not be exempted.

▪ Requires the Department to promote innovative educational programs designed to increase student achievement and engagement, improve student wellness, and prepare students for the workforce and post-secondary education.

Career-technical education for home-educated students
▪ Permits a home-educated student to participate in the career-technical education programs of the student's resident school district as a part-time student without any financial assessment, charge, or tuition that is not charged to a public-school student and requires such a student to be counted in the district's enrolled ADM.

3. SB 276 - School Psychologists, SMA, Success Sequence

Interstate Compact for School Psychologists
▪ Enters Ohio into the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists to improve public access to school psychological services by facilitating the interstate practice of school psychology in educational or school settings.

▪ As a member of the Compact, requires Ohio to offer equivalent licenses to school psychologists from another member state of the Compact, subject to Ohio's laws and rules governing school psychologists.

• Requires Ohio to submit information regarding school psychologist licensees to the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission, including information related to identification, licensure, investigations, and adverse action.

Success sequence curriculum

• Requires the Department of Education and Workforce to review and maintain a list of curriculum for the success sequence for grades 6-12.

• Requires school districts to provide instruction on the success sequence in at least one course required for high school graduation.

Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act

• Requires the governing body of a public high school to which the bill applies to adopt a policy that permits a student enrolled in a neighboring public high school that does not offer an extracurricular activity to petition to participate in that activity at its high school.

• Applies the bill to each public high school that (1) offers extracurricular activity and (2) is a member of an organization that regulates interscholastic athletics.

• Entitles the provision the "Student Athlete Mobility" (SAM) Act.

Hybrid assessment report

• Requires the Department of Education and Workforce, by November 15, 2026, to submit a report to the House and Senate Education committees about a single, statewide hybrid assessment system that provides both criterion-referenced results aligned to state academic standards and nationally norm-referenced results.

4. HB 479 – Budget Corrections, OFCC, and Temporary Homestead Exemption

OEPI – Overview of HB 479 Property Tax Provisions

Tax law changes Expanded 2027 sales tax holiday.

• Requires a 15-day sales tax holiday to be held in August 2027 for most items priced under $500.

Homestead property tax reduction

• Authorizes a fixed-amount, one-year property tax reduction for homestead exemption recipients.

• Reimburses local governments for revenue lost due to the reduction from a portion of surplus GRF revenue.

Inside millage inflation reduction

• Makes several changes to the calculation and administration of a recently enacted mechanism that limits property tax increases from inside millage to the rate of inflation.

• Modifies how the reduction is determined for subdivisions with territory in multiple counties with different reappraisal years and clarifies that the reduced rate applies uniformly throughout the district.

• Requires the calculation of the school district 20-mill property tax floor to reflect any reductions made to the districts inside millage.

Homestead exemption calculation

• Modifies the calculation of the homestead exemption by calculating the reduction without regard to an existing property tax credit for school districts on the 20-mill floor.

Tax increment financing exemption applications.

• Allows applications for tax exemptions authorized by tax increment financing (TIF) arrangements to be filed before the tax year in which the exemption will apply.

• Requires the Tax Commissioner to make a determination on a TIF exemption application within a year after receiving it unless the Commissioner requests additional information within that one-year period.

- Provides that any approved TIF exemption application for a parcel applies to any parcel later created by a split or combination involving the original parcel without a new exemption application being required.

- Eliminates a requirement that TIF exemption applications include a certification, from the county treasurer, that all taxes on the subject property that are currently due and payable are either paid or subject to payment plans or outstanding tax certificates. Temporary property tax abatement

- Permits the owner of certain enterprise zone property to temporarily apply for an abatement of delinquent property taxes on that enterprise zone property without regard to continuing law's payment limitations. Opportunity zone tax credit

- Aligns the Ohio opportunity zone investment tax credit with federal guidance on investment eligibility during the transition period between current and upcoming opportunity designations.

- Allows "affordable housing project" investments made within two years of the project's completion to repay financing that did not receive a credit to be eligible for the credit.

- Clarifies that an investment in a project is an investment in a single business.

- Shortens the credit application period from the 10th to 17th of January and July to the 15th to 16th of each of those months.

5. SB 450 – Capital Budget and OFCC Funding

Capital appropriations and reappropriations.
- Makes capital appropriations totaling $3.7 billion for the FY 2027-2028 biennium and authorizes about $3.4 billion in new debt.

3. Bills for possible consideration during Lame Duck session (Written update provided as a reference)

1. HB 3 – School Bus Safety Act

Criminal penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus.
- Increases the criminal penalties for illegally passing a stopped school bus that is loading or unloading passengers by setting required minimum fines, increasing the maximum fines, increasing the length of the driver's license suspension, and imposing higher penalties and points on a driver's license for repeat offenders.

School bus cameras
- Authorizes the installation and use of school bus camera equipment, including school bus violation detection monitoring systems, that can capture an image, images, or video solely for recording violations of illegally passing a stopped school bus.
- Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS), with the advice of the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW), to adopt rules governing school bus cameras.
- Authorizes the use of an image, images, or video captured by a school bus camera to corroborate a school bus driver's report of a possible violation of illegally passing the driver's stopped school bus.
- Authorizes an entity responsible for the operation of a school bus to purchase, install, operate, and maintain the cameras on its school buses either itself or through a private vendor.

Civil penalties and enforcement program
- Creates a civil enforcement program to be used when a school bus violation detection monitoring system (a type of school bus camera) captures the license plate of a vehicle illegally passing a stopped school bus, but the driver of the vehicle cannot be identified.

School Bus Safety Fund and Grant Program
- Creates the School Bus Safety Fund in the state treasury, consisting of the criminal fines and a portion of the civil penalties collected for violations of passing a stopped school bus.

2. HB 25 – Require Designation of Foster Care Education Liaison

▪ Requires the Director of Education and Workforce, in collaboration with specified other state agency leaders, to encourage the sharing of best practices to support students placed in foster care.
▪ Requires each public school to designate a local foster care education liaison to support students in foster care.
▪ Requires each public school, for each school building it operates, to designate a building staff member as the foster family navigator to serve as the primary point of contact to support students placed in foster care that attend that school.

3. HB 314 – Restrict Disruptive Public Records Requests

▪ Exempts student email addresses from the Public Records Law.
▪ Permits public records keepers to initiate court proceedings to limit or deny harassing or disruptive public records requests.
▪ Permits private contractors to respond to requests for voluminous public records. ▪ Establishes an alternative fee structure that political subdivisions may adopt for public records requests.

4. HB 413 – Local Government Expenditure Database

HB413 Establishes the Ohio Local Government Expenditure Database and requires certain political subdivisions to participate. Requires state retirement systems to participate in the Ohio State Government Expenditure Database and requires both systems to include revenue data. This bill is expected to pass the House on May 20.

5. HB 420 – Continuing Levies

House Bill 420 To disallow and, by 2029, eliminate property taxes levied for a continuing period providing districts with an option to replace them with fixed sum – fixed time levies. Bond levies would be exempt from this provision. This bill would have a huge impact on how our members collect local taxes as well as implications to the state formula. This bill remains pending in the House Ways and Means Committee with only two hearings so far.

6. HB 462 – School Administration for Epinephrine

House Bill 462 passed, which allows nasal administration of epinephrine auto-injectors.
▪ Permits public and private schools and camps to procure epinephrine nasal sprays and other epinephrine devices or products approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in emergency situations in the same capacity as epinephrine autoinjectors.
▪ Permits students to possess and use such a device or product in public and private schools and camps.

7. HB 504 – Temporarily Freeze Property Values

HB504 would authorize counties to provide a temporary property tax reduction if the aggregate value of property in the county increases by 15% or more following a reappraisal. The bill is marked for a vote on May 20 and could be on the House floor on May 20.

8. SB 7 – Substance Use Instruction

SB7 requires each public school and permits each chartered nonpublic school to annually provide instruction to students in grades K-12 on the harmful effects of short-term or chronic substance use.
- It would require a school district too:
- Provide instruction in the harmful effects of and legal restrictions against the use of drugs of abuse to include instruction regarding marijuana, opioids, and opiates.
- Include bullying and hazing in their health education curriculum.
- It would require the Department of Education and Workforce to Collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to review available resources and develop a list of evidence-based curricula, materials, programs, and instructional strategies related to the required health curriculum and substance use instruction.

9. SB 272 – Civics Assessment

SB 272 permits high school students to take a civics assessment in lieu of the American government end-of-course exam. Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the bill permits a high school student to take a civics assessment instead of the American government end-of-course exam.1 If the student opts to take the civics assessment, that assessment must be identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and

Immigration Services Agency for a person to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. The bill specifies that, to pass the civics assessment, a student must answer at least 60% of the questions correctly. Students may retake the assessment until they attain a passing score. Each public school must determine the method and manner in which to administer the assessment.

10. SB 290 – Exterior Lock Boxes

SB 290 Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to install at least one exterior secure master key box for each school building that is assigned an internal retrieval number by the Department of Education and Workforce. It also Requires secure master key boxes to be installed on a school building or in a strategic location for optimal law enforcement response on school premises and permits the Attorney General to provide School Safety Training Grants for the purchase and installation of an exterior secure master key box.

11. SB 311 – Operation of Public/Chartered Nonpublic Schools

Senate Bill 311 addresses the sale of unused school property. Will explained that Andy Brenner's Education Omnibus bill is likely to have parts inserted into other bills rather than moving on its own. We have communicated directly with his office offering several modifications to the school building disposal section that would be favorable for our members.

12. SB 318 – SROs for Private Schools

▪ Permits a chartered nonpublic school to generally engage for school resource officer services in the same manner as a school district does under continuing law. ▪ Permits a chartered nonpublic school, prior to the 2026-2027 school year, to engage a school resource officer who has not, as otherwise required under continuing law, completed prescribed training, and been appointed under a memorandum of understanding between the school and a law enforcement agency. ▪ Expressly permits a township police department to provide school resource officer services to a chartered nonpublic school in the department's jurisdiction.

13. SB 326 - High School Computer Science Course

Senate Bill 326 Generally requires each student that enters 9th grade on or after July 1, 2029, to complete one unit of instruction in computer science to graduate. An amendment to the bill reduced the requirement to a half-unit but we continue to advocate for an option to include computer science content into existing coursework rather than adding units of credit. This bill is pending in the Senate and could see action before the June 10 break.

14. SB 328 – Career and Workforce

Senate Bill 328 which requires career awareness planning and expansions for middle school students. Will noted that the Senate Education Committee had made changes allowing districts more flexibility in implementing career exploration requirements through existing courses rather than requiring separate courses totaling 60 hours over the 6-8 grade span. This bill was passed in the Senate and is expected to see committee hearing in House Education at some point in June and in the fall.

15. SB 416 – Military Deployment for Board of Education Members

▪ Establishes that a school board member on active duty in the armed forces is not absent from a school board meeting if the member attends the meeting remotely.

16. SB 422 – Prohibit Sex Offenders on School Premises

▪ Prohibits qualified sex offender/child-victim offenders from knowingly being present on school, preschool, or childcare center premises or on premises where a school-affiliated ticketed event is occurring, unless for a legitimate purpose.
▪ Requires each public and nonpublic school to provide reasonable off-site or remote alternatives for meetings and communications with parents who are prohibited from knowingly being present on school premises.

4. **Other**

   A. **ODEW Transportation Workgroup Final Report – See attached**

   B. **Credential Redesign Project - See attached.**

   C. **SB19 Webinar – 8/27/26**

MEMBERSHIP

Tony has talked with two school districts, Nordonia and Middletown, about becoming members with the Alliance.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting -September 25, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Ohioans to Protect Public Services – Update**

We anticipate that the group will stay connected as they consider what strategies will be needed in 2027 if there is a move to place the amendment on the ballot in November.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Preparation for Upcoming Biennium Budget**

   Member survey to be developed to determine funding formula priorities from membership.

2. **Approval of new board member.**
   Jennifer Swankey has been approved by the Executive Committee and will be attending meetings starting in September.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

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 August 26, 2026.

Jeff Brown, Chairperson

Tony Podojil, Executive Director