THE ALLIANCE FOR HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2026

Chairperson Jeff Brown called to order a video conference and in-person meeting for the Executive Committee of the Alliance for High Quality Education at 9:32 a.m. on March 25, 2026, 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 Schools
Jason Fine	Bexley City School District
Chad Hilliker	ESC of Hamilton County
Andy Culp	Grandview Heights 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
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 February 2026, were electronically distributed to members prior to this meeting for their review.

Jason Fine moved, and Aaron Sable seconded the approval of the minutes for February 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tony Podojil provided a summary of the financial activity for February 2026. A review of our current expenditure projections indicates that the budget remains on target for the year.

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

Scot Prebles moved, and Chad Hilliker seconded the approval of the fiscal report for February 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Tony requested that a donation be made to the Coalition to Protect Essential Public Services in the amount of $1,000.00 for assistance with current operating expenses and based on our now being a current member of that group as approved at the prior meeting.

Trent Bowers moved, and Scot Goggin seconded the approval of the donation of $1,000.00 to the Coalition to Protect Essential Public Services. The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Key Legislative Issues

A. Property Tax Amendment – Update

Tony updated the committee on the current work being performed by the Coalition. A meeting is scheduled for the group in mid-April to be followed up with a release of information that members can then use with their communities in terms of providing information related to the property tax amendment campaign.

B. HB 455 – School Regulations

House Bill 455 aims, among other items, to modify graduation rate reporting for special need students and how the CCWMR component of the report card is computed when determining student success at the college level. This bill is expected to see movement in May or June.

C. 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 property cale section that would be favorable for our members.

D. SB 19 – Math Intervention and Improvement

Senate Bill 19 underwent changes in the House Education Committee, including the removal of Math Improvement and Monitoring Plans (MIMPS), though districts with over 50% non-proficient students must still develop district-wide math achievement and intervention plans. Will explained that while diagnostic assessments were discussed as a potential alternative to criterion-referenced assessments, there was no immediate relief expected from the current system.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. 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 the 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.

H. HB 661 – NIL Restrictions

HB 661 would eliminate NIL contracts for all students in the state. Opponent and proponent testimony has been heard in the House Education committee both for and against the bill. The sponsors are trying to see if the votes are available for passage. We may not see a resolution to this issue until May when they return from break.

I. HB 625 – Student Athlete Mobility Act

HB 625 Requires the governing body of a public high school to which the bill applies to adopt a policy that permits a student to enroll in a neighboring public high school that does not offer a team sport to petition to participate in that sport at its high school.

J. HB 25 - Fostering School Success

HB 25 requires designating local foster care education liaisons and building staff navigators for foster care students, passed the House with new provisions.

K. HB 437 - Youth Cardiac Monitoring

Prohibits a student or youth athlete from being allowed to participate in an athletic activity unless the athlete has a physical examination performed by a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant, and the health care provider completes a preparticipation physical evaluation form.

Has passed out of the House and is in the Senate Education Committee. Highly likely bill will pass in May.

L. HB 125 - Student Absences for 4-H and FFA

HB 125 includes provisions about 4-H and FFA activities not counting toward chronic absenteeism calculations and requires a school district to consider a student in grades kindergarten through 12 as present at school during school hours if the student is participating in scheduled school-sponsored or workforce preparation activities approved by the district. Approved activities must include 4-H and FFA activities or programs, athletic tournaments, field trips, internships, shadowing opportunities, and any other activity approved by the district. In other words, under the bill, a school district must consider a student attending an approved event that may not be on campus as still in attendance in school for that school day.

The bill permits a district to require, as proof of participation in the approved activity, the submission of written documentation from an educator affiliated with the activity or a student's parent to a school principal or attendance officer. Districts must provide the student with the opportunity to make up any schoolwork missed during a student's participation in an approved activity. The bill prohibits a student's grades or a district or school's chronic absenteeism calculation from being adversely affected by a student's participation in an approved activity.

Has passed out of the House and is in the Senate Education Committee. Highly likely bill will pass in May.

M. HB 462 - Nasal Epinephrine Devices

The bill expands the types of epinephrine administration devices a student may possess and use to treat anaphylaxis at a school operated by a school district or a community school, a STEM school, or a chartered nonpublic school to include nasal epinephrine delivery devices.1 Under continuing law, a student is already permitted to possess and use an epinephrine autoinjector to treat anaphylaxis under certain conditions.

Those conditions include (1) the student has written approval from the prescriber of the medication and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent, (2) the required written approval is on file with the principal of the student's school and, if one is assigned, the school's nurse, and (3) the principal or nurse has received a back-up dose of the medication from the parent or the student.

HB 462 will likely go to the governor soon after Senate passage.

2. Other

A. ODEW Transportation Workgroup Update

ODEW has been holding meetings with invited participants to discuss some remedies related to transportation. The group will issue their final report in early to mid-March, containing recommendations for non-public school transportation and ridership tracking.

MEMBERSHIP

No business discussed in this section.

LEGISLATIVE / ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The next meeting will be held on March 27, 2026, at 10 a.m. via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS

Stephanie Dodd presented information about Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs), explaining how they work and the potential for public schools to participate, including details about tax credits and upcoming federal changes effective January 2027.

NEW BUSINESS

No business discussed in this section.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Jeff Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

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 March 25, 2026.

Jeff Brown, Chairperson

Tony Podojil, Executive Director