

Joint Statement Submitted by the Fairfield County ESC's Business Advisory Council (BAC) and the Fairfield County ESC Board of Education

INTRODUCTION

According to state law, the Business Advisory Council and the Governing Board for the ESC are required to issue a joint statement by March 1, 2019. This statement will contain, as an attachment, the BAC Board adopted bylaws, the Action Plan adopted by the BAC Board, and a report of progress on the work outlined in the council's action plan for the 2018-2019 school year. The adopted BAC Bylaws and the BAC Action Plan are available and are referenced in separate documents.

A BAC Brochure was designed, adopted and distributed to communicate the mission and goals of the BAC. Meeting dates, the BAC members and the purpose for the BAC are also included in the brochure.

The following joint statement summarizes the actions taken and actions pending by the BAC. It is believed that this statement and supporting documentation demonstrate that the BAC under the authority of the Fairfield County ESC Board of Education has fulfilled its respective responsibilities consistent with the intent of the law.

FOUR BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS CONDUCTED BETWEEN APRIL 17, 2018 and FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Summary of the April 17, 2018 BAC Meeting:

Dr. Marie Ward, Superintendent of the Fairfield County Educational Service Center provided the BAC members with a brief explanation of the Educational Service Center services. She explained the reason for the formation of a Business Advisory Council, stating that it is a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code and that the Fairfield County school districts and the ESC want to work collaboratively with businesses to help prepare students for the workforce.

Dr. Michael Johnson, Client Services Liaison of the Fairfield County Educational Service Center, introduced himself and his role here at the ESC. Each council member then identified themselves and their role as either a member of the educational or business community.

Dr. M. Johnson then proposed the agenda. BAC officers were elected, bylaws and a BAC action plan were adopted by the BAC.

The BAC members recommended conducting a survey to be presented at the next BAC meeting scheduled for September 18, 2018.

Summary of the September 18, 2018 BAC Meeting:

President Mike Johnson introduced new members of the Business Advisory Council. He explained again the reason behind the council and the goals the council hopes to accomplish.

The results of the surveys were presented. The data indicated that 6 out of 9 students had postsecondary plans to attend college. It was assumed that the remainder would need to enter the workforce upon graduation from high school.

The BAC discussed the impact of the state report card on the schools specifically the Prepared for Success Performance indicator. Superintendents in attendance at the meeting reported that they try to improve the grades they receive and one of the ways they do that is to increase the number of students taking the ACT or other standardized tests.

Mr. Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director, presented the “Career Readiness Endorsement” concept and supporting packet that will be used to inform and support students interested in directly entering the workforce after graduation from high school. The packet contains a list of attainable goals that a student must complete, with signatures from the student, counselor, school district officials and participating businesses. The BAC adopted the following elements of the Career Readiness Endorsement.

Students must:

1. Attain a minimum average attendance of 95% for previous two semesters.
2. Attend an organized tour of a business in Fairfield County or a neighboring county and complete a checklist and essay.
3. Perform at least 20 hours of community service since beginning of high school.
4. Acknowledgement of need for drug screen and a background screen prior to employment.
5. Proof of reliable transportation or ability to utilize Fairfield County transportation services.
6. On track for high school diploma or equivalency.
7. Attend one job fair and one mock interview.
8. Complete OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) seal.
9. Provide a valid form of identification, included with OMJ seal.
10. Complete career resume and a career plan. Part of OMJ seal.
11. Complete and print an online resume. Upload to OMJ.com – part of OMJ seal.

12. Obtain two letters of recommendation. Upload to OMJ.com – part of OMJ seal.

Students must also demonstrate completion of following assessments through OMJ.com or equivalent.

1. Master Core Business Math
2. Workplace Success Skills
3. Business Writing Skills
4. Critical Thinking
5. How to Read Better and Faster in the Workplace
6. Getting Started with Computers

The goal for students is to complete the endorsement and credentialing process as early as possible during the 12th grade year. The BAC adopted the the Career Readiness Endorsement packet and approved its implementation during the 2018-2019 school year.

The following events were announced at the September 2018 BAC Meeting. Midwest Fabrication will be having a career signing day in April 2019. A job fair was preliminarily scheduled for February 2019.

Summary of the December 4, 2018 BAC Meeting:

The regular meeting of the Fairfield County Business Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. on December 4, 2018.

The updated copy of the BAC brochure was presented and discussed. There were comments previously on the artwork being used was too busy. The artwork was revised and the information contained in the brochure was updated.

Mr. Matt Gallatin, Principal from Liberty Union High School, gave a verbal presentation on his students' visit to Company Wrench. He said these students were identified as those most likely to benefit from the Career Readiness Endorsement. He said the students showed interest in the work, and some followed up and submitted applications for employment with the company. He said Company Wrench personnel shared with the students that in order to be successful in the workplace they must 1. Show up, 2. Have a Willingness to Learn, and 3. To be Drug Free.

Mr. Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director, reported on the implementation of the Career Readiness Endorsement Packets in the school districts as of November 29, 2018. The Implementation Subcommittee met and discussed the results of the

implementation process. The goal is that by January 11, 2019 all participating schools will have identified a list of students who qualify for the Career Readiness Endorsement.

The identified students that are working through the Career Readiness Endorsement process will participate in an evening career fair in March 2019. The job fair will held at Eastland/Fairfield Career Center. Food will be offered at the fair and parents are welcome. The presentation at the fair will allow parents to learn the advantages for students to enter the workforce after graduation while continuing their education on the job.

The plan for next year includes beginning the Career Readiness Endorsement Process for high school students earlier. Eligible juniors will be identified during the second semester next year and eligible seniors will be identified during the first semester next school year.

Mr. Szabrak hopes that the revised student identification timeline combined with the Career Readiness Endorsement process will result in identifying additional students for potential postsecondary employment. The revised process will provide more time to get a larger number of students involved in the March 2020 job fair and contribute to additional students committing to postgraduate employment at the May 2020 “Signing Event”. The signing event is meant to mimic an athletic signing event and to showcase and recognize the students and the companies that they are joining.

The BAC committee members discussed the formation of a subcommittee to help with planning the May 2019 signing event. Discussion about the event included inviting companies and allowing company representatives to present hats or other company items. BAC members volunteered to serve on the ad hoc “Signing Event” subcommittee.

Mr. Blackburn of the Pickerington School District, addressed the council stating that he and Ms. Buckley (absent) have been working with Fairfield Medical Center on creating internships within the hospital for the students in the Pickerington School District. He said that they were also approaching their businesses and Chamber Members to possibly create more internships in the Pickerington area.

Ms. Jennifer Friel, CEO of Mid West Fabricating, then stated that her company was open to any school that would like to tour the facility.

After some discussion, Ms. Friel offered to host the February 19, 2019 BAC Meeting at Mid West Fabricating located in Amanda, OH.

Summary of the February 19, 2019 BAC Meeting:

The regular meeting of the Fairfield County Business Advisory Council Meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. on February 19, 2019. The meeting was hosted by Jennifer Friel, CEO at Mid West Fabricating facility.

Representatives Laurie Lach and Gina Orr from Ohio University-Lancaster made a presentation on career education options at OUL in the technological and manufacturing fields. The educational options were available at summer camps, through the involvement in student organizations, and by taking coursework at the OUL campus.

Brad Changet from the Fairfield County ESC spoke to the programs at the ESC that are designed to support special needs students as they transition to the workforce and other postsecondary options. Mr. Changet reviews the needs of the students served by the ESC and discussed finding pathway options between the special needs students and local career options in the area. He emphasized a need for creating meaningful transition opportunities into the world of work for the special needs students.

Mr. Rick Szabrak, Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Director gave an update on the workforce development process with specific emphasis on the continued implementation of the Career Readiness Endorsement Process. Considerable progress is being made to get students to complete the process. Mr. Szabrak shared that more than 40 students have completed the endorsement process.

The "Joint Statement" to ODE was reviewed and unanimously approved by the BAC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. and Jennifer Friel, CEO of Mid West Fabricating conducted a tour of the manufacturing plant.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2019 at TWC Enterprises located in Millersport, OH 43046. The meeting will be reserved to adopt goals and schedule BAC meetings for the 2019-2020 year.

Summary of the BAC's Advice and Recommendations:

It is recommended that the BAC continue to support and endorse the Career Readiness and Endorsement Process and to begin the process earlier during the second semester of the junior year for eligible students.

The BAC would recommend to the Boards of Education in all Fairfield County School Districts to pass a resolution officially supporting and encouraging the implementation and use of the Career Readiness Endorsement in their respective high schools.

The BAC would like to encourage business leaders, school districts and educational personnel to build upon the developed relationships which are designed to improve the implementation of the Career Readiness Endorsement Process and maximize the benefits to the greatest number of students in the Fairfield County School Systems.

The BAC would like all high schools to adopt and schedule a career signing day as one option to provide official recognition of students' commitment to a postsecondary career.