## BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 11, 2020 **CONVENE:** 11:30 a.m. PLACE: Meeting Held Remotely via Google Meet **ADJOURN:** 12:40 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Paul Alic, Julie Batey, Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Dan Chase,

Andy Hill, Linda Kramer, Jim Lawrence, Tim Manion, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser,

Brian Pinkerton, Glen Rutherford, Daniel Slife, Laura Giermann

**ABSENT:** Erik Allwood, Adam Barton, T.J. DeAngelis, Karl Elsass, Jim Gray, Robert Patrick,

Jason Venner, Michael Wagar

- 1. Review Minutes from October 14 BAC meeting
  - a. Minutes were approved.
- 2. November 16 Board of Education Meeting
  - a. The board will meet on Monday.
  - b. One of the discussion topics is the feedback survey for the 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, which will be available until November 27. Based on the feedback received, revisions will be made, and the plan will be submitted for board approval in December.
- 3. Financial Update (D. Beeman)
  - a. Funding for Wadsworth City Schools for FY 20 and FY 21 was cut by \$893,782 each year.
  - b. The majority of our expenses, 80%, is for staffing (salaries and benefits).
  - c. Property tax revenue is currently stable and not yet impacted by the COVID pandemic. We may see a small increase in delinquencies in the future.
  - d. We will see a full year of collecting money from the Nexus pipeline (Nexus is currently appealing).
  - e. The formula for state aid was changed for the current biennium. We project that we will return to FY 2019 funding levels in the next biennium. Wadsworth City Schools is 250 students into the guarantee.
  - f. The School Fair Funding Plan, introduced in November of this year, would include a complete overhaul of the current school funding formula. If approved, it would be phased in over several years and could result in an additional \$2M for the district and possibly get the district to 2025.
  - g. We have received grant funding (Bureau of Workmen's Comp dividends and CRF from Wadsworth Township) to help offset cuts, but a \$127,566 deficit still remains.
  - h. Our health care renewal is at 0%, despite an industry trend of 8-11%. This equates to a savings of over \$2M over the life of the forecast.
  - i. It is projected that the district will begin deficit spending beginning in 2024. If the Fair Funding Plan is implemented, we may be able to stretch that to 2025.

j. The projected deficit spending indicates a need for increased revenue, expenditure reductions, and a possible ballot issue in the near future.

## 4. Around the Room

- a. A question was raised regarding the number of retirees we generally have per yer. Normally, we have between 3-8 staff members retiring each year. Retirements generally result in a savings in the second year of the retirement (first year we are paying part of the severance) since we are hiring staff members with less experience which results in a lower rate of pay.
- b. Mr. Beeman was asked how the sales tax money is spent by the district. Recently, we have been using the money to purchase textbooks, an expense we used to take from our general fund.
- c. Dr. Hill mentioned that Governor DeWine will speak at 5:30 p.m. this evening. It is unknown at this time what information he plans to release/discuss.
- d. COVID cases among Wadsworth students/staff continue, unfortunately, and notifications are being made. We continue to monitor the situation, but are encouraged that none of the cases have originated within the school district or have been the result of contact with anyone within the building. It suggests that the measures we have implemented are helping. Attendance rate, through 11/10/2020, is 94.8%. Last year, for this same time period, it was at 96.7%, so we are not seeing a big change.
- e. Our biggest challenge is to maintain an adequate staff level to support student needs (current sub fill rate is at approximately 70%).
- f. Rumors are circulating that children will go home for Thanksgiving break and will not return. This is, in fact, a rumor and is not true.
- g. Current plans are that we will go into a remote learning situation only if the county moves to a color code of purple. We will investigate other solutions before moving to remote learning (e.g., adding a transportation run and having students arrive late should we not have enough bus drivers or closing a building for one day/week, etc.).
- h. We are moving ahead with winter sports and activities (basketball, gymnastics, wrestling, swimming, diving, etc.). We applied for, and were granted, variances to the spectator limits that were set by the state health director. We have received variances for OJ Work, the PAC, the HS gym, and Art Wright Stadium. The variance is to be used to accommodate family members of participants. The district is also working with WCTV to live-stream events. There will not be any large sporting events involving multiple schools (e.g., Grizzly Invitational); only small meets will be held.
- i. Ohio Means Jobs is offering software for job fairs. December will be the first job far, and the last will be held in April. Thank you to K. Breitenbucher for all her hard work.
- j. Dr. Hill reported that approximately 60 students in grades 5-12 returned to our school buildings from the Wired program. There are 72 students in grades 4-12 who are planning to return. We are adding new sections in kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. We will use three subs from our current sub pool to staff these new classrooms.
- k. Concerns were raised about the inability to have 7th grade "away" family members attend games. Could we have one game after another? Dr. Hill will check.

Could we reduce spacing to 3 feet to allow for more spectators? Social distancing is determined in a different manner when considering gyms, performing arts facilities, etc. When allowing for adequate social distancing in these types of facilities, a percentage of the capacity limit of the facility is used to determine the maximum attendance.

I. The next BAC meeting will be January 13.