

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, January 13, 2021

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Meeting Held Remotely via Google Meet

ADJOURN: 12:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Paul Alic, Julie Batey, Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Dan Chase, Karl Elsass, Jim Gray, Andy Hill, Jim Lawrence, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Glen Rutherford, Daniel Slife, Jason Venner, Michael Wagar, Laura Giermann

ABSENT: Erik Allwood, Adam Barton, Dan Chase, T.J. DeAngelis, Linda Kramer, Tim Manion

1. Review Minutes from November 11 BAC meeting

a. Minutes were approved.

2. December 14 Board of Education Meeting

- a. [The Wadsworth City School District 2021-2021 Strategic Plan](#) was approved.
- b. New high school classes were approved (Honors Algebra II/Trig with Limits; Earth Science I; Earth Science II), and two high school math classes were renamed.
- c. A resolution was approved which will enable the district to join a mass-action lawsuit against JUUL Labs, Inc., a vaping company.
- d. The recommendation to purchase two new school buses was approved (\$40K of purchase price will be paid through an Ohio Dept. of Education grant).

3. January 4 Board of Education Organizational Meeting

- a. Gary McComas was elected board president.
- b. Amanda Gordon was elected board vice-president.

4. January 4 Board of Education Regular Stated Meeting

- a. The Board of Education had discussions regarding the 2020-2021 School Year Education Continuity Plan.
- b. The Red Oak Employee Assistance Proposal was approved, which will provide an opportunity to our employees to receive counseling services, if they so choose.
- c. The recommendation to align our athletic eligibility requirements with the OHSAA requirements and to align the same requirements for all extracurricular activities for the third quarter of the 2020-2021 school year was approved. We will reevaluate the decision as we get closer to the fourth quarter to determine if a similar recommendation is necessary for the remainder of the school year.
- d. A recommendation to change the district's graduation requirements, beginning with the graduating class of 2025, was also approved. It will change the ½-credit technology requirement to a ½-credit technology or business requirement.

- e. Holabird and Root were approved as the design firm for the CIS project. This Friday, January 15, will be the kick-off meeting with Holabird and Root to determine our next steps. The district faces an aggressive timeline with the proposed CIS project.

D. Beeman indicated that the levies for Franklin Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, and Wadsworth Middle School will fall off at the end of 2021. Should a new levy be voted on and approved in November for the CIS project, that would go into effect in 2022.

5. School District Update

- a. In November, Wadsworth High School moved to remote learning due to the disruption of educational services attributed to the large number of student and staff absences attributed to COVID. The high school had an attendance rate of 93.2% from the beginning of the school year through 11/10/2020; the week of Thanksgiving, attendance dropped to 74.93%. At that time, the quarantine requirements were such that one (1) positive COVID test could potentially result in forty (40) people being quarantined. There were also concerns, even though we were never able to fully confirm them, that perhaps some cases had originated at the high school.
- b. Our Continuity Plan had called for students to move to remote learning if the county was coded as purple on the Ohio Public Health Advisory Alert System map. Medina County was coded as purple the Thursday after Thanksgiving, and the district moved to remote learning for all students. When the county was coded red two weeks later, it was announced that students would return to the building, and WHS would follow a hybrid model of learning. When the quarantine requirements were modified on December 30 (see below), it was announced that the high school would return to 100% in-person instruction (not the hybrid model) for those students who were not in the Wadsworth Wired program.
- c. Quarantine requirements were modified on December 30. The changes still require use of a face mask and include the following:
 - i. In a classroom, if students are less than 3 feet apart for 15 minutes or more, quarantine is mandatory.
 - ii. In a classroom, if students are at least 3 feet but less than 6 feet apart, contact tracing must be completed. The affected students would be considered quarantined but would be permitted to attend school for classroom instruction (no participation in extracurricular activities/sports permitted).
 - iii. In a classroom, if students are 6 feet apart, no quarantine is required.
 - iv. On a bus, students would be required to quarantine if they sat beside, directly behind, directly in front of, or directly across the aisle (if seated in an aisle seat) from an affected student.
 - v. Affected individuals are to quarantine for ten days. Fourteen days of quarantine only applies to those who participate in sports and sports contests.
 - vi. The Board of Education also decided to revise the portion of the Continuity Plan that dealt with the amount of time required to transition between learning models (e.g., from remote learning back to in-person instruction). The two-week transition period specified in the original plan was revised to indicate that under typical circumstances, two days should provide enough time for transition (may be situations where more or less days are necessary).

- d. A community survey was issued to determine if parents/guardians would want to move their students to the Wired program now knowing that the district will not automatically move to online instruction if the county were coded purple. Based on the survey results, the district would be able to accommodate the requests from K-2 and high school parents/guardians without additional staff; grades 3-8 may require additional staff. The anticipated cost to implement additional online opportunities for our students is approximately \$100K, which may be partially or fully offset by federal relief funds.
- e. Now that the district will not automatically move to online learning should the county be coded purple, there are indicators that the board of education will consider when determining which educational model the district follows:
 - i. Student attendance rate, including those in quarantine;
 - ii. Staff, in particular, teacher, attendance rate;
 - iii. Substitute fill rate;
 - iv. Ohio COVID-19 Risk Level Guidelines;
 - v. COVID-19 data, specific to Wadsworth; and
 - vi. Consultation with the Medina County Health Department.
- f. Information about the COVID vaccine was shared. Vaccination will not be required of employees, but results from a survey issued indicate that 70-71% are interested. Employees will not be required to pay for the vaccine.

6. Around the Room

- a. If he is permitted to do so, J. Lawrence will send a list of part-time staff who may be interested in substituting at Wadsworth City Schools.
- b. K. Breitenbucher reported that there are eight virtual career fairs scheduled. The next one, an engineering career fair, will be held January 28; manufacturing will be held February 4. The remainder will continue through mid-April. If any BAC member has an interest in participating, please contact K. Breitenbucher.

7. Future Topics

- a. How are students coping through the COVID crisis?
- b. How can businesses help schools and schools help businesses?
- c. CIS project updates