

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Meeting Held Remotely via Google Meet

ADJOURN: 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Dan Chase, T.J. DeAngelis, Karl Elsass, Jim Gray, Andy Hill, Linda Kramer, Jim Lawrence, Tim Manion, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Daniel Slife, Laura Giermann, Steve Moore, Lauren Ross, Michelle Washington (ODE guest)

ABSENT: Paul Alic, Erik Allwood, Adam Barton, Julie Batey, Glen Rutherford, Jason Venner,
Michael Wagar

1. Review Minutes from February 10 BAC meeting
 - a. Minutes were approved.
2. Enhance the High School Course and Support Pathway for Students Who are Non-College and Non-Career Technical-Education Bound (Steve Moore and Lauren Ross)
 - a. About 71% of Seniors typically enter college following graduation; about 10-11% go onto a 2-year technical program. About 15% are looking to enter the workforce directly from high school.
 - b. Opportunity School will be offered next year to Juniors and Seniors. The program is geared towards students whose post-secondary goals may include a 2-year technical school, military service, or a transition directly to the workforce. The typical work-study students may be working towards the Ohio Means Jobs Readiness Seal as an alternative pathway to graduation. Students should be committed to strong attendance at school and work.
 - c. The goal is to have approximately 30 students attend for about 3 hours per day.
 - d. The work-study program will enable students to earn ½ credit for every 120 hours of work experience. A maximum of 1 credit as a Junior and 2 credits as a Senior may be earned. Students will work towards the Ohio Means Jobs readiness seal. Twenty-one (21) credit hours are required to graduate.
 - e. We are currently seeking an Opportunity School Coordinator. There are no additional staffing needs anticipated at this time.
 - f. Suggested classes would put students on track to take Career English and Applied Math as a Senior and electives that would provide job- and life-related skills for future employment. A Junior Career English class will be developed and tailored towards

career exploration and career selection. The key is to develop a curriculum that makes the students employable.

- g. A work-study lab will be developed which will provide for check-ins (daily, weekly, or bi-weekly) to enable students to discuss their job and work experiences. Current high school teachers will be assigned groups of students during the lab time.
- h. Students will be required to have employers complete a Work Study Evaluation/ Validation form quarterly which verifies the student has met the requirements to receive the work-study credit designation.
- i. This program does not include Career-Tech students.
- j. The question was raised as to whether there are enough employment opportunities to accommodate all of the students who may be interested in the program. We believe, and Kathy Breitenbucher confirmed, that there are.
- k. It was suggested that appropriate use of social media and appropriate ways to communicate should be key components of the instruction provided to students.
- l. The importance of including self-care/wellbeing/mindfulness into the curriculum was raised. Our goal is that all sophomores will go through the mental health program beginning next year. We are also expanding our counseling department by adding an additional counselor for next year.

The district does several things at the lower grade levels as well regarding mindfulness; waiting until students reach high school age is too late. As a note, the April board of education meeting will include a presentation regarding mental health initiatives within the district.

3. Michelle Washington

- a. Ms. Washington is an Education Program Specialist with the Ohio Department of Education. She will be included in future BAC email correspondence and has been invited to attend all future meetings, as her schedule allows.
- b. Ms. Washington provided links to useful information that BAC members may find interesting:
 - i. [Success in the New Economy](#) (video)
 - ii. [\(Re\)Defining the Goal](#) (Slide presentation by Kevin Fleming)
 - iii. [Ohio Dept. of Education Social & Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Site](#) (includes information on social emotional competencies and upcoming SEL meet-ups).
- c. Ms. Washington suggested that area business partners be invited into the classroom to serve as mentors for the work-study program that is being developed.
K. Breitenbucher suggested that S. Moore contact Jacinda Yonker at the Medina County ESC to inquire about the mentor program that the ESC has.

- d. Ms. Washington indicated that she is unable to provide details, but there will be an announcement made by the end of the week regarding paid internships.

4. Review of March 8 Board of Education Meeting

- a. An announcement about the Diversity and Inclusion Committee meeting on March 17 at 4 p.m. was made. All are welcome to attend.
- b. Intra-district open enrollment is now open as is kindergarten registration.
- c. A special board of education meeting was set for 6 p.m. on March 31. The purpose of the meeting will be for the board members to review the progress towards the goals they set for themselves in September.
- d. A resolution to align our eligibility requirements with those of the OHSAA eligibility requirements was approved. Fall eligibility will be based on fourth-quarter grades.
- e. Several policies were recommended for a first reading and are the result of changes in state or federal law or best practices.
- f. Two MOUs were approved. One details the responsibilities and the payment for the three middle school girls' track coaches, and the other provides details about the extended hours for the Opportunity School Coordinator, a new position at WHS.
- g. The new Opportunity School Coordinator job description was approved.
- h. The decision to extend the use of our current math textbooks another year was approved. Due to the pandemic, the textbook review committee was unable to meet to review and recommend math textbook selections for next year. Plans are to convene the committee next school year to enable adoption of new books next spring for use in the 2022-2023 school year.
- i. D. Beeman reported that a recommendation to adopt a resolution to accept the amounts and rates set by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies was approved.
- j. An executive session was held to discuss the potential purchase of property (cost, potential sites, etc.) for the construction of a new Central Intermediate School. We hope to have all planning information completed by the beginning of July to allow board members time for discussions about a potential ballot issue and time to complete the process with the Board of Elections, if required.

5. Around the Room

- a. The superintendent will distribute a survey to WCS parents/guardians by the end of the week to determine the interest in online instruction next year. Discussions among the area superintendents are taking place to determine if an online program could be

offered collaboratively among the districts should online instruction continue next year.

- b. The Ohio Dept. of Education has set an April 1 deadline for districts to submit a plan on how to address the learning loss and mental well-being issues associated with the pandemic. Wadsworth City Schools is planning to offer a comprehensive summer school program which will include a mental health component. The committee agreed that this would be a good topic for discussion at the April BAC meeting.
- c. Kathy Breitenbucher reported that the ESC BAC is discussing work experience and honors diplomas. If students are missing some credits towards an honors diploma, work experience credits could be applied.
- d. No decisions have been made regarding ballot issues, but it appears that if we have a building bond levy on the ballot, we may include an operating levy as well. The timing is such that millage from an existing levy will be coming off, so the net increase of a new bond and operating levy may be minimal.