

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021
PLACE: Meeting Held Remotely via Google Meet

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.
ADJOURN: 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Karl Elsass, Jim Gray, Andy Hill, Tim Manion, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Michael Wagar, Laura Giermann, Michelle Washington (ODE guest)

ABSENT: Paul Alic, Erik Allwood, Adam Barton, Julie Batey, Dan Chase, T.J. DeAngelis, Linda Kramer, Jim Lawrence, Glen Rutherford, Daniel Slife, Jason Venner

1. Review Minutes from March 10 BAC Meeting
 - a. Minutes were approved.

2. Review March 31 and April 12 Board of Education Meetings
 - a. March 31 Meeting
 - i. Board of Education members reviewed progress towards their goals at the 3/31/2021 meeting.
 - ii. The amendments to the Medina County Educational Service Center agreement were approved. The amendments are related to the services that some of our special education students require.

 - b. April Meeting
 - i. Sarah Kopacko and Meagan Neumann provided a social/emotional and mental health update.
 - ii. Doug Beeman and Joyce Walker (Director of Student Services) provided an update on the use of federal Part B funds. The funds are utilized for special education staffing needs, but, of course, the funds do not cover all of those costs. The number of identified special education students and the staffing required to meet their needs continues to be a growing area for our district, and, consequently, proves challenging when projecting budgetary needs.

While our Part B funding remains relatively stable year to year, we must certify each year that we have spent the same amount, or more, in order to be eligible for funding.

We offer the community the opportunity to provide feedback on the way funds have been used in the past or how we intend to use the funds in the future. They are asked to contact Mr. Beeman or Mrs. Walker by April 30 with comments.

- iii. An announcement was made that the WCS Diversity and Inclusion Committee will meet on April 26 at 4:00 p.m. [A link to the committee materials is available here.](#)
- iv. It was also announced that the State of Ohio has made rapid COVID-19 tests available to school districts. Our district will not require, nor will we perform, testing within our buildings. Rather, the test kits will be distributed to the parent/guardian(s) of students or to employees who meet certain criteria as a convenience to them. Testing may allow a possible return to school/work on an earlier date than would otherwise be possible.

Employees/Students will have the ability to request a test kit if they have been placed in quarantine. If the person tests negative on day 5 or later of quarantine, he/she may return after day 7 instead of waiting until day 10.

Students/Employees who are displaying COVID-19 symptoms and the Medina County Health Department decision making tree requires a negative test result or ten days to pass before he/she may return to school or work may also request a test kit.

Tests are to be completed at home via a telehealth appointment. Parents must be present with students if a test is being completed for a student.

- iii. We also announced highlights of the new State order which included a change for large group gatherings. We may now meet in multiple groups of 10, provided groups are spaced 6 feet apart from each other. This will provide us the opportunity to move our board of education meetings back to the PAC, beginning in May, while adhering to these guidelines.

A question related to group gatherings (high school end-of-year activities) was asked. Steve Moore has been working with students on plans for prom and Junior Banquet. Neither event will include a formal offering of food, but a dance will be held for each event. Promenade will be held outdoors, and there will be an after-prom event as well. Students will meet in groups of ten, spaced 6 feet apart, and will be required to wear masks.

Graduation will be held at Art Wright Stadium the Sunday before Memorial Day; a rain date will be scheduled. Final details are still being developed. We continue to work with the Medina County Health Department to ensure that we are acting in a safe way for all those involved.

- iv. Multiple teaching contracts were approved at the April BOE meeting.
- v. An agreement with the Medina County ESC was approved for next year. The amount of the agreement is higher due to the increased needs of our special education students and an increase in the amount of time our gifted instructor will work within the district.
- vi. The board approved a reduction in the hours of instruction for the current school year, but we are still well above the minimum requirement for instructional hours required by Ohio Revised Code. The reduction occurred because of the calamity days due to weather, the days provided for vaccine administration, and the two additional days provided to staff/students.
- vii. D. Beeman reported that the FY 2020 audit was complete and clean, and the district was the recipient of the Auditor of State Award. A transfer of funds was approved as well as the monthly reports.
- viii. An executive session was held to discuss the potential purchase of property for the building of the new Central Intermediate School. Hopefully, an announcement regarding site selection will be made soon. Consideration is being given to on-site as well as off-site locations.

August 4 is the final day to submit information to the Board of Elections for a November ballot issue, so a decision will need to be made and information gathered/finalized for submission to the board by July.

3. Summer School

- a. The high school summer school program will look similar to past years, but additional classes will be offered. Due to the pandemic, we are seeing an increase in the number of students who are in danger of not graduating.
- b. For K-8, in the past we have primarily focused on elementary students who have had trouble with reading. The program will be expanded this year, and we will focus on English/Language Arts and Math. We are looking at Acadience scores for our elementary students.
- c. We will focus on our middle school students who are in danger of not moving on to the next grade level.
- d. There will not be a cost associated with K-8 students who attend summer school.
- e. We do not want the summer school to be seen as a punitive program, but rather one that students will want to attend.

- f. We would like to add a mental health component. We are investigating whether the needs can be met by our current staff or if we may want to utilize staff from Red Oak or Bellfaire, providers of counseling services for the district.
- g. We will offer breakfast and lunch to summer school students. The government has extended the free meal program through the summer.
- h. Transportation to and from the summer school program will be provided. Transportation has sometimes been an issue in past years and prevented some students from being able to attend.
- i. We are focusing on participation and are not interested in issuing grades at the elementary level. Of course, at the high school level, grades will be issued.
- j. Teachers have been surveyed to determine interest in teaching this summer. Thus far, we have (26) teachers who have expressed an interest at the elementary level.
- k. As far as the summer school schedule, we are looking at different scenarios and determining the balance of moving students forward and at the same time recognizing that students and staff will need to have a break before the start of the new school year. We anticipate that we will start in mid-June and end prior to the beginning of August.
- l. The district will need to spend federal grant money (at least 20%) that has been allocated as "learning loss" dollars.
- m. Within the next few weeks, we will post the required staffing positions. We will also communicate with our families that have students who are in need of the additional summer assistance.
- n. Michelle Washington asked about online/remote access for summer school. The option will be considered, but we are mindful that many of the students who have fallen behind this year may be as a result of the online learning setting. For those families who are not comfortable sending their children due to COVID concerns, we may need to consider other options.
- o. A question was raised regarding retention at the middle school if students do not participate in the summer school program. The number of students potentially affected is small. Again, we do not want summer school to be seen as a punitive measure but realize that as these students move to high school, they can be in for a rude awakening when credits must be earned in order to graduate.
- p. Michelle Washington suggested utilizing SELs (social/emotional learning standards) to address the learning gap.

- q. A question was raised if the district has given any consideration to holding classes outdoors? This has not yet been discussed, but it is something that will be considered.

4. Around the Room

- a. HB 67 provides some leeway in allowing the use of end-of-year grades rather than test scores for high school graduation requirements.
- b. Updates on topics discussed during the current school year will be provided at the May BAC meeting.