

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, September 15, 2021
PLACE: C.R. Parsons Administration Building

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.
ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Paul Alic, Ayten Anderson, Julie Batey, Doug Beeman, Dan Chase, Andy Hill, Jim Lawrence, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Glen Rutherford, Jason Venner, Michelle Washington, Laura Giermann

ABSENT: Erik Allwood, Adam Barton, Kathy Breitenbucher, T.J. DeAngelis, Karl Elsass, Linda Kramer, Tim Manion, Daniel Slife, Mike Wagar

1. BAC Goal

- a. The goal of the WCS District BAC is to collaborate with our business community on identifying areas where school programming can enhance skills they would like to see in employees and areas where our district can study for future program expansion while educating them on programs and opportunities currently available in our schools.
- b. The new program at WHS that creates a work-related pathway for our students ties nicely into the goal. We will seek feedback on this as the year continues.
- c. The goal will be submitted and the web site updated.

2. 2021-2022 School Year Update

- a. G. Tudor's Asst. Supt. position was filled by Steve Moore.
- b. We have hired a new principal at Franklin Elementary School and there have been internal moves in the administrative ranks.
- c. We still have openings in our classified positions and continue to look for substitutes (many van and bus driver sub positions available).
- d. Levy Issue (for November ballot)
 - i. It will be a 2.4 mil bond levy for construction of a new intermediate school (will be built near the high school campus).
 - ii. There will be a 6.7 mil operating levy (last levy was in 2011).
 - iii. 3.2 mils will be coming off, so the net increase in taxes will be 5.9 mils.

- iv. We have been working with Holabird & Root to help move us through the process. We are looking at scenarios from the architect that align with the recommendations of the CIS Committee.
 - v. We are permitted to provide information regarding the levy but may not encourage people to vote or promote the levy during school hours.
 - vi. We have included a new auditorium in our plan to meet the needs of our performing arts activities.
 - vii. Another consideration is to relieve the district of ownership of the current CIS while ensuring the preservation of O.J. Work, at a minimum. The architect has provided drawings of potential ideas which preserve O.J. Work, but the information is for potential ideas only.
 - viii. We are in the final planning stages and will be ready to begin public presentations (Lion's Club, etc.) in the near future.
- e. COVID and Return to School Plan
- i. We did not require masks at the start of the school year; the decision was based on our experience during the course of the summer (camps, summer school, etc. only resulted in [7] cases). Also, the face covering requirement was removed on June 2 by the Governor, but is still required on transportation.
 - ii. Last year, 20% of our students were online, but with most students returning this year, it is not possible to apply the 3-foot distancing rule we used last year.
 - iii. We wanted to allow our teachers to return to small group instruction, which they were not permitted to do last year.
 - iv. We immediately began to see an increase in cases at the beginning of the year.
 - v. The driving goal is to reduce the number of students/staff who are required to be in isolation/quarantine. The board decided to require masks for a period of (3) weeks due to the rising numbers being placed in quarantine.
 - vi. The focus was the quarantine guideline chart that is issued by the Ohio Dept. of Health and followed by the Medina County Health Dept. We must follow the flow chart to determine who needs to be quarantined. If masks are worn during time of exposure, students/staff are permitted to remain in school.
 - vii. When in quarantine, a student/employee may return after 10 days unless he/she tests negative on or after day 5 (may then return on day 7).

- viii. Beginning September 1, during school hours only, staff and students are required to wear masks. Even though we started wearing masks on September 1, the number being placed in quarantine did not begin to decrease until about a week later.
- ix. Board will most likely resume discussion to establish thresholds to allow the Superintendent to reinstate the mask requirement.
- x. An email was sent to Senator Romanchuk who is indicating that a school district can choose to implement rules as they see fit. Our legal counsel does not agree. We have a responsibility to follow the quarantine guidelines set by the Ohio Dept.of Health and the Medina County Health Department.
- xi. If the Board decided to blatantly ignore the law, our insurance coverage would potentially cease, and we would open ourselves to potential lawsuits.
- xii. We are sharing data with elected officials, health officials, etc. to help with their decision making.
- xiii. Close to 95% of our quarantined students were home for 7-10 days and remained healthy. This is driving the questions and dialogue we are having with health officials, etc.
- xiv. We have a board meeting on Monday night, September 20. We will continue to address the question of how to best keep students in school.
- xv. At our last meeting, we had 1,200 online viewers and approximately 100 in-person.
- xvi. Extra-curriculars without masks are helping for the buy-in. Knowing quarantine will not be required if a mask is worn is also helping.

3. BAC Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022

- a. Meeting participants agreed to meet on the following dates:

October 13, 2021 (second Wednesday)	February 16, 2022 (third Wednesday)
November 17, 2021 (third Wednesday)	March 16, 2022 (third Wednesday)
December 15, 2021 (third Wednesday)	April 13, 2022 (second Wednesday)
January 12, 2022 (second Wednesday)	May 11, 2022 (second Wednesday)

- b. We will offer an online and remote option for attendance.

4. BAC Meeting Topics

- a. For the October meeting, we will share the levy presentation that will be presented to the community.
- b. For the November meeting, we will present an update on the work pathway opportunities for our high school students.
- c. It was suggested that a presentation about curriculum considerations for our high school students be presented at a future date.

5. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.