

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: C.R. Parsons Administration Building

ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Paul Alic, Erik Allwood, Ayten Anderson, Julie Batey, Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Dan Chase, T.J. DeAngelis, Andy Hill, Linda Kramer, Jim Lawrence, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Glen Rutherford, Jason Venner, Mike Wagar, Michelle Washington, Laura Giermann

ABSENT: Adam Barton, Karl Elsass, Tim Manion, Daniel Slife

1. Approval of September 15, 2021 BAC Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved.

2. Community Levy Presentation

- a. A combination bond/operating levy will appear on the November ballot.
- b. Friends of Wadsworth City Schools will send a mass email, distribute yard signs, hold forums, etc. to promote the levy.
- c. There hasn't been an operating levy on the ballot for ten (10) years
- d. The levy request is for 9.1 mills:
 - i. 2.4 mills for new CIS building and 6.7 mills for operating expenses
 - ii. Taxpayers will see a 3.2 (*updated to 4.6 on 10/26/2021*) mill tax bill reduction, effective in 2022.
 - iii. Net tax increase if levy passes = 9.1 mills - 4.6 mill reduction = **4.5 mills**
- e. CIS Timeline:
 - i. In 2008, the Ohio School Facilities Commission recommended replacement of CIS. The district deferred the CIS replacement to a future date.
 - ii. In 2017 the CIS Committee made the recommendation to replace the current building on a new site which would be able to serve (700) 5th and 6th grade students and 125 staff members.

- iii. The Committee also recommended preserving and repurposing O.J. Work Auditorium, if feasible, and relieving the district of the property. The architect has provided potential uses for O.J. Work Auditorium for those who may be interested.
 - iv. In January 2020, the Board of Education decided to move forward with plans to build a new Central Intermediate School, despite the inability to secure state funding for the project. The projected cost is \$41M.
 - v. Provided the levy passes, plans are to have the new CIS ready for students and staff in time for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.
- f. Benefits of a New Building:
- i. Modern learning environment
 - ii. More financially efficient to operate (reduce taxpayers' costs)
 - iii. New auditorium will seat 1,000-1,200
- g. Operating Levy
- i. The district's annual operating costs continue to increase; local revenue remains relatively stagnant.
 - ii. There has not been a new operating levy since 2011. This is the longest time between levies in 44 years.
 - iii. Funds have allowed us to:
 - 1. Expand our fine arts programs in Gr. K-12
 - 2. Provide 1:1 technology district-wide
 - 3. Create a K-12 STEM pathway
 - 4. Implement a plan to reduce class sizes in Gr. K-12
 - 5. Add over 35 new courses at the middle school and high school during the past 7 years
 - 6. Provide numerous athletic and club opportunities for students
 - 7. Provide additional school counselors

8. Enhance our gifted education program

- iv. When comparing operating millage data with the averages from 1) other Medina County schools, 2) similar districts, and 3) the state average, Wadsworth City Schools collects less from taxpayers and keeps expenditures per pupil lower than all three.

3. Questions/Suggestions

a. Questions

- i. Are there concerns that the proposed site of the new CIS will create traffic issues? We are working with traffic engineers and the City of Wadsworth. Since the middle school/high school have different start and end times than CIS, we don't anticipate any issues. Also, there will not be any additional curb cuts from CIS out to Broad Street.
- ii. How does student enrollment compare to 2011? (Follow-up: The average daily student enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year was 4,745; current enrollment is 4,450.)
- iii. Suggestions:
 - 1. Place the bond/operating levy information on a more prominent location on the district website.
 - 2. Include directions on looking up the implications of a property tax increase on the Medina County Auditor's website.
 - 3. Play a video loop of the school design concept during times when parents/visitors are expected in our buildings.
 - 4. Add a FAQ slide.
 - 5. Address traffic concerns in the slide show, highlighting the entryways/exits and emphasizing that WHS/WMS and CIS student schedules differ.
 - 6. Add a slide to show the impact of the levy on slide No. 11 in the presentation.

4. Meeting Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.