

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 15, 2023
PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building

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

ATTENDEES: P. Alic, A. Anderson, J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Elsass, M. George, A. Hill,
J. Lawrence, L. McDermitt, B. Neiser, B. Pinkerton, G. Rutherford, D. Slife,
M. Springer, L. Giermann

ABSENT: E. Allwood, A. Barton, K. Breitenbucher, D. Chase, L. Kramer, T. Manion,
J. Veneer, M. Wagar, M. White

1. Approval of January 11 BAC Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes were approved.

2. Social and Emotional Learning (Presentation by Joyce Walker & Sara Kopacko)

a. Part of our Strategic Plan includes addressing social and emotional learning. We have a committee that is reviewing curriculum related to social and emotional learning.

b. Social emotional learning teaches students how to manage their emotions, how to make good decisions, how to collaborate, and how to understand themselves and others better.

c. Social emotional learning is one of the four learning domains put out by the Ohio Department of Education. It is not mandated, but rather serves as a guideline.

d. The five competencies of social emotional learning are:

i. Self-awareness

ii. Social awareness

iii. Responsible decision making

iv. Self-management

v. Relationship skills

e. Three tiers of instruction:

i. Tier 1 is core instruction that all students receive.

- ii. Tier 2 is targeted intervention (e.g., small group instruction).
 - iii. Tier 3 is intensive intervention (bringing help in).
- f. Wadsworth City Schools has tandem initiatives that line up with social emotional learning:
 - i. Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
 - ii. K-12 counseling team
 - iii. SEL lessons
 - iv. Whole child initiative
- g. Student needs must be met before they can learn:
 - i. Safety
 - ii. Self-awareness
 - iii. Connection
- h. Our alternative school will provide an opportunity for students with greater social emotional needs to receive the support they may not be able to receive within the traditional school setting
- i. All but about 10% of our intermediate, middle and high school staff have been trained in mental health first aid. There is also peer mental health first aid training.

3. Review of February and March Board of Education Meetings (A. Hill)

a. February Meeting Highlights

- i. An alternative school planning update was presented to board members.
 - 1. We have a growing number of students who are being alternatively placed outside of the district due to extreme behaviors (physical outbursts, etc.).
 - 2. Beginning in 2017-2018, teachers reported seeing a change in some of the younger students as they began school.
 - 3. We are unable, in some cases, to find solutions within the building.

4. The average cost to send a child to an alternative placement outside of the district averages \$61,000 (tuition cost only). We are currently spending about \$1.1M yearly for out-of-district placements.
5. Plans for our alternative school are to start small with grades K-4. We clearly have needs beyond fourth grade and plan for a K-12 initiative in the future.
6. Conservatively, it may cost about \$200K next year to get up and running, but we anticipate a projected savings once we are up and running.
7. We will staff the school with a principal, a full-time counselor, two teachers (regular education), two intervention specialists (work with special education students), and a building secretary. There will be other positions that will be located at the building, depending on which students are placed in the alternative placement building.
8. We are close to finalizing the site; one possibility is the First Christian Church on Boyer Street. The Wadsworth Fire Department provided their input regarding fire safety codes being met within the building. The police were a part of the discussion to ensure that the building would be served by the Wadsworth Police Dept. rather than the Medina County sheriff's office.
9. Dealing with growing numbers of social emotional issues is not unique to our district; it is occurring nationwide.

b. March Meeting Highlights

i. House Bill 1

1. HB 1 is a proposal to create a flat state income tax rate of 2.75%. To pay for the projected decrease in income tax received by the state, HB 1 would eliminate the 10% property tax rollback the state currently pays to local governments.
2. Currently, property owners receive a 10% rollback or discount on their property tax bill on voted levies. HB 1 would eliminate this property tax reduction, thus increasing property owners' tax bills. To offset that issue, HB 1 also seeks to reduce the assessed valuation (or taxable value of your property) from 35% to 31.5% (a 10% reduction). However, HB 1, in its current form, does not address HB 920; and, therefore, for most voted levies, the millage would be rolled back UP resulting in a tax increase to property owners.

3. The author of the bill recognizes that HB 920 does apply but indicated this was not the intent of the bill. The intent is that HB 920 does not apply, and property owners would not see a tax increase.
 4. If property owners do not see a tax increase, and the state is not sending the 10% rollback to local governments, then HB 1 will result in a decrease in revenue for all local governments with voted property tax levies. This would be about \$2.M for the Wadsworth City School District.
- ii. An Intermediate School construction project update was provided. It's been discovered that .14 acre of the property is wetlands. We were also made aware that trees cannot be removed until November if Indiana bats, a protected bat species, are present. We are involved with the Army Corp of Engineers and the EPA in hopes that construction may begin in June or July.
 - iii. The Textbook Adoption Committee presented information regarding the adoption of Business, Fine Arts, Health, and World Language textbooks. Proposed textbooks may be reviewed in the Administration Building.
 - iv. The 2025-2026 school year calendar was presented; the calendar will be resubmitted for approval at the May Board of Education meeting.
 - v. A special meeting has been scheduled for March 29 to allow Board of Education members to review progress on their yearly goals.
 - vi. For an update of the strategic plan goals, please [follow this link](#).
 - vii. Both the WEA and WESPA contracts have been ratified and approved by our Board of Education; both are effective July 1, 2023.
 - viii. We are part of a class action settlement agreement against JUUL Labs.

4. Around the Table

5. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.