

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 13, 2023

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building

ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, D. Chase, K. Elsass, A. Hill,  
L. Kramer, B. Neiser, B. Pinkerton, G. Rutherford, D. Slife, M. Springer,  
L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, A. Anderson, A. Barton, M. George, J. Lawrence, T. Manion,  
L. McDermitt, M. Wagear, M. White

1. Approval of May 10 BAC Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved.

2. Review of Proposed Meeting Schedule and Topics

- a. October 11: Technology Presentation
- b. November 22: Four Cities Compact Update
- c. January 10: Student Resource Officer/Physical Security Presentation
- d. March 13: Senior Send-off Day
- e. May 8: Whole Child Initiative & Literacy

A request was made to also include information about the district's reading programs and anticipated changes to the approved list of curriculum providers. Since the changes will not occur until later in the school year, this information will be included at the March or May meeting.

3. School Updates from May through September

- a. The Ohio Department of Education is being restructured. During the first week of October, the Department of Education will be renamed the Department of Education and Workforce and will report to the Governor.
- b. Grizzly Academy
  - i. The Grizzly Academy now occupies the front portion of the administration building. The location is a temporary one for this year; we continue our search for an alternate site.

- ii. We currently have 16 students, but we are staffed for 20. The school is staffed with a principal, guidance counselor, two intervention specialists, two teachers, and six support staff.
- iii. Parents appreciate that we are able to serve their students within the district rather than placing them in external settings.
- iv. Offering the Grizzly Academy has cost the district approximately \$250,000 this school year, but as the school grows to accommodate additional grade levels, we anticipate savings of approximately \$50,000-\$100,000 annually.

c. New Intermediate School Update

- i. The wetland issue has been resolved.
- ii. The Indiana brown bat study revealed there were none present which enabled us to proceed with clearing the area.
- iii. We are close to completing the site work.
- iv. Prior to groundbreaking, it was revealed that we were approximately \$12.5M over the construction budget based on the bids received.
  - 1. At the July Board of Education meeting, the board was able to allocate an additional \$14.6M by approving \$8M in Certificates of Participation (leveraging future tax dollars),utilizing \$5M from value engineering, and the difference is coming from other dollars not associated with our general operating fund.
  - 2. The construction project will go to bid in October.
- v. Tentatively, construction will begin in early March. Completion is scheduled for the opening of the 2025-2026 school year with the performing arts building opening a few months later.

d. Current Central Intermediate School/O.J. Work Auditorium

- i. We are working with a company called Tipping Point. They are reviewing the 2017 plan from the City of Wadsworth and are compiling information about potential use of the building.
- ii. Consideration is being given to utilizing part of the building to house the Grizzly Academy or using it as a source of revenue for the district.

- e. Tennis Court Project
  - i. The new courts are located north of the middle school and are being used. Remaining work includes the installation of windscreens on the south and west sides of the courts. There is also an issue with some of the asphalt sinking underneath the fence post, which the company will fix when they return in October.
  - ii. The tennis courts at the high school have water coming up from the ground, especially during dry weather, but are still being used when conditions permit.
- f. Overlook Elementary School Entrance/Exit
  - i. We have purchased the property adjacent to Overlook Elementary School and plan to build a new entrance/exit for the building. The property may also allow for additional parking.
- g. Whole Child Advisory Team
  - i. We will create a Whole Child Advisory Committee to support students and staff. The plan is to coordinate the efforts of different groups within the district who are working on the same initiatives.
- h. Athletic Facilities
  - i. We are creating a plan to enhance our current athletic facility (track, baseball fields) through the use of signage, etc.
- i. New Website
  - i. We have transitioned to a new website offered by Finalsity and plan to keep the website updated with the latest information from the district.
- j. Athletic Trainer Services
  - i. We have moved from Summa to Akron Children's Hospital as our provider for athletic trainer services.
- k. Live Streaming of District Events
  - i. The district is now live streaming any event that WCTV is covering "live."
  - ii. We are working through infrastructure issues to be able to live stream other events as well.

iii. Plans are to install additional fiber at the stadium.

I. LifeWise Academy

- i. Religious instruction, off-site, is permitted during the school day during non-core instructional time.
- ii. LifeWise Academy will provide religious instruction to 22 students from Lincoln Elementary School at Mosaic Church for 40 minutes, one day per week.
- iii. There is no financial support, nor is the district involved in any way with the LifeWise program.

m. Bathroom Design for New Intermediate School

- i. We have issues with vandalism, fighting, vaping, etc. in our bathrooms at some of our buildings.
- ii. The bathroom layout in our current buildings makes it difficult to pinpoint the offenders.
- iii. In order to eliminate the mass gathering of students in these areas, we will install single-use restroom facilities in the academic wings of the new intermediate school.
  - 1. The restroom will be built with floor-to-ceiling walls and will allow for additional privacy for students and easy supervision.
- iv. Report from D. Beeman
  - 1. The fiscal year has closed, and revenue and expenses came in close to projections.

4. Around the Table

5. Adjournment

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