

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: November 22, 2023

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building

ADJOURN: 1:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES: A. Anderson, J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, D. Chase, A. Hill,
L. Kramer, J. Lawrence, L. McDermitt, B. Neiser, B. Pinkerton, D. Slife,
W. DiMascio, L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, A. Barton, J. Bilek, K. Elsass, M. George, T. Manion,
G. Rutherford, M. Springer, M. Wagar, M. White

1. Presentation: William DiMascio, Four Cities Compact Director

- a. The Four Cities Compact, in its 51st year, includes 715+ students from Barberton, Copley, Norton, and Wadsworth.
- b. There are 22 courses offered, with Wadsworth and Barberton having the bulk of the programs.
- c. The most popular courses are currently full and have a waitlist. They are:
 - i. Cosmetology
 - ii. Auto Tech
 - iii. Carpentry
 - iv. Animal Care & Veterinary Science
- d. We would like to see a boost in enrollment for the following courses:
 - i. Advanced Manufacturing
 - ii. Athletic Health & Wellness
 - iii. Advancement to Nursing
 - iv. EDT & PDR
- e. Attempts are being made to determine the reason why particular programs may not be attracting students:
 - i. Course names are being examined to make certain the name accurately reflects what the program is about.

- ii. Could the Advancement to Nursing program benefit from a less restrictive application?
 - iii. Are fees associated with the programs prohibiting some students from enrolling? For example, fees for Auto Tech and Advancement to Nursing, which include items that the student will keep after course completion, may be high.
 - 1. The district has an L&J fund that can help cover costs for those students who have a need. Perhaps language should be included on the application and within the Compact guide that states funds are available to help defray the cost of fees.
 - 2. Are there businesses that would be willing to donate some of the items the students are required to purchase?
 - f. The Four Cities Compact office continues work on the following items:
 - i. Bringing the application process online
 - ii. Developing 3-D renderings of the different course labs and making them available online
 - iii. Developing a Business, Industry, and Community Partnership Guide that will be provided to businesses
 - g. Grant money is available for the Compact programs. Copley has submitted a grant to purchase culinary equipment. Barberton has submitted a grant to replace CNC machines and a grant to make updates to the Network/Cyber Security program.
 - h. A question was raised about securing substitute teachers for the Compact courses. While obtaining substitutes for any position is difficult, it is more difficult when the teacher holds a specific skill set (mechanics, carpentry, etc.). Our priority is to make certain the students are learning the skills required to succeed in the course.
 - i. Students must begin Compact programs during their Junior year, with the exception of Nursing Assistant Care. Nursing Assistant Care is a Senior-year-only program.
2. Review October 13 and November 20 Board of Education Meetings
- a. October 13 Special Meeting
 - i. There were three easement agreements between the City of Wadsworth and the Wadsworth City School District Board of Education that were approved to enable construction of the new intermediate school to continue.

b. November 20 Regular Stated Meeting

- i. A special meeting was set for December 21, 2023 in order to approve a guaranteed maximum price for the new intermediate school project. Construction is scheduled to resume in March
- ii. A revised School Counseling Program document was approved.
- iii. Our agreement with Wadsworth Community Radio was approved for renewal.
- iv. There were policy revisions that were approved for adoption:
 1. Anti-harassment and nondiscrimination policies were revised to allow the high school and middle school principals to serve as Compliance Officers in addition to the two Compliance Officers who currently fill that position (the Director of Student Services and the Director of the Four Cities Compact). The revisions will also allow a designee for the Superintendent if there is ever a situation where a personal relationship could cause a conflict of interest in his/her decision.
 2. The policy that deals with random alcohol, drug and nicotine testing of Wadsworth City School District students was revised to reflect a change in Ohio law (from 2019) that considers the age a student can legally purchase and use nicotine.
 3. The policy that deals with animals on district property was revised to allow for the possibility that a WCS employee could be considered an animal handler.
- v. New high school courses for 2024-2025 were approved and will move forward if there is enough student interest. No additional staff is required to offer the new classes. They new courses are:
 1. Popular Music as Literature
 2. Modern Nonfiction
 3. Literature as Film
 4. The Art of Poetry
 5. Creative Writing
 6. Multi-Language Pathway 1
 7. Multi-Language Pathway 2
 8. Cultures of the Spanish-Speaking World
 9. Medical Spanish
 10. French Film
 11. Colloquial French
 12. Modern Novel

- vi. A November 2024 overnight trip to Philadelphia and New York City for band members was approved.
- vii. The rosters of the Four Cities Compact Advisory Committee were approved.
- viii. D. Beeman presented information on the 5-year financial forecast. A copy of his presentation may be [viewed here](#).

3. Around the Table

- a. A question was raised about the possibility of reinstating the middle school trip to Washington, D.C., but at this time, there are no plans to do so.

4. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.