



Chamber Education Committee/Business Advisory Committee Meeting

February 27, 2024, 12:00 P.M. at Employers Health

Agenda

Attendance:

Emil Alecusan	Chris Goff	John Richard
Theresa Benzel	Joel Harris	Randy Snow
Bryan Boatright	Mike Hearn	Nathan Stutz
Debbie Busby	Jennifer Kessel	Christine Taylor
Dawn Catalano	Susan Koosh	Kevin Tobin
Joe Chaddock	Rebecca Kuzma	Brittany Wells
Matt Cola	Janelle Lee	Michael Wheeler
Chris DiLoreto	Rob McBride	Patrick Willoughby
Brent Fatzinger	Lori McCleese	
Shaanette Fowler	Alexandra O'Connor	

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chris Goff started the meeting by reiterating the announcement that Stark Education Partnership will be contracted by the Chamber to manage and carry out the CRCC Education Committee meetings. He also informed the committee that there was legislation passed that required all school districts to have business advisory councils that are subject to the same sunshine laws as public school board meetings. Going forward, John Richard will be alerting the media as to when and where the committee will be meeting, given these meetings will now be compliant with the statute that requires these BAC meetings to be open.

These meetings going forward will have hosts who will share information regarding their organization. Chris Goff then shared that Employers Health is a pharmacy benefit management collective. As such, the organization represents clients in their pharmacy benefit management purchases. Employers Health has been buying on behalf of their 350+ clients for 29 years. Their clients include varying businesses and organizations including health and warfare funds, trades, counties, cities, townships, school districts, university, and industry in the private sector.

2. Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce and Stark Education Partnership

John Richard from Stark Education Partnership assured the group that normally in these meetings, presentations, conversations, facilitations will be conducted within an hour; additional tours of host facilities may be carried out from 1-1:30.

John Richard introduced Christine Taylor, as she will be sharing facilitation of the committee with John dependent upon the meeting topic. Christine Taylor is Director of Business Relations at SEP. Her role is to build relationships with members of the business community who want to engage with school systems. SEP has 51 business partnerships and also partners with local universities in Stark County. The aim is to grow the number of businesses who engage with SEP, to provide experiences that benefit graduates to leave with meaningful career plans while also responding to the needs of employers who are suffering from workforce shortages.

The 22 school districts are under statutory requirements for Business Advisory Councils (BAC), and the ESC team submits a plan annually to the state to fulfill those requirements. The objectives of this committee are as follows:

- Advise, support, and empower educators re: employment skills
- Vision – business & education partnering to foster a well-prepared workforce, leading to economic development and improved quality of life in Stark County
- SEP Vision – to build generations for successful individuals who fulfill their career potential and grow roots in Stark County

3. Visioning Exercise

John described the vision of this Business Advisory Council as fostering a well-prepared workforce leading to improved economic development and quality of life in Stark County. As such, he wanted there to be common understanding among the committee regarding what needs to happen to make this vision possible and how best to measure that alignment. John asked attendees to split into groups and answer what needs to be addressed to help achieve these goals. The list of responses was as follows:

- Develop strong work ethic as a foundation for learning/work outcomes
- Strong foundational skills – read at high level and demonstrate math skills
- Exposure and awareness of what's available in Stark County so students know about careers here without having to leave
- More businesses in the county present and involved in BAC so everyone is on the same page and resources are aggregated into one-stop shop
- Continue doing business bus tours so educators know what's happening county-wide
- Connect students to all industry clusters to see what the work looks like
- Provide or connect students to internships/mentorship programs
- Soft skills prep/training
- Access to information regarding opportunities
- Think more regionally and work with neighboring counties to increase likelihood of students planting roots; avoid parochialism

- Encourage a well-educated populace beyond simply job-readiness to improve quality of life
- Incorporate arts into educational priorities
- Encourage good health – physical, mental, social, financial well-being

4. Goals and Metrics

To be developed in future meetings

5. Future 2024 Meetings

Fourth Tuesday of the month from noon-1:00

(may extend to 1:30 with added tours/info regarding host)

March 26

April 23

May 28

June and July - No Meetings

August 27

September 24

October 22

November 26 (week of Thanksgiving)

December – No Meeting

6. Once Around 30-Second Announcements

7. Adjourn **at 1:03**