

# Chamber Education Committee/Business Advisory Council Minutes

May 28, 2024

Location Host: Strengthening Stark, 400 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE Canton, OH 44702

Facilitators: Dr. John Richard and Christine Taylor

## Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Gary Chaddock	Susan Koosh	Michele Shaffer
Barb Bennett	Joe Chaddock	Dan Lowmiller	Joseph Stella
Theresa Benzel	Matt Cola	Melissa Marconi	Nate Stutz
Stephanie Bohnak	Chris DiLoreto	Brent May	Rachel VanDyke
Marty Bowe	Shaun Eller	Robert McBride	Brittney Wells
JoAnn Breedlove	Sharla Elton	Laurie Moline	Jeff Wendorf
Craig Brown	David Fischer	Whitney Reinhart	Patrick Willoughby
Debbie Busby	Chris Goff	Samantha Rodgers	Bret Yeagley
Dawn Catalano	Benny Griffiths	Derek Saylor	Matt Ziders

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Committee Chairman Chris Goff called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

### 2. Approval of 4/23 minutes

Dr. John Richard asked for approval from the committee of the minutes from the April monthly meeting. Chris DiLoreto moved to approve the minutes, Marty Bowe seconded, and the motion passed.

### 3. Strengthening Stark Welcome and Information

Rebecca Kuzma shared that Strengthening Stark stands for fostering connections between community organizations. They focus on bringing people together that are doing similar things to make their efforts stronger through collaboration. They look for ways educational efforts will eventually grow per capita income in the Stark County region.

### 4. Introductions

Any new committee members/attendees introduced themselves to the group. (All attendees are included in the attendance section of the minutes)

### 5. Vision, Goals, Metrics – Revisited

John Richard shared that he and Christine have assumed facilitating these meetings on behalf of the Chamber. While the Chamber hosts this, the ESC uses this meeting as a business advisory council for all schools in the county. As a result of that, SEP sends out a public notice and keeps it open to the press as a compliant BAC. For background, as SEP assumed the responsibility a few months ago, they took on the goals of the Chamber's Education Committee/Advisory Council. These are economic development, fostering a well-prepared

workforce, and seeking improved quality of life. Given that the committee does not have to authority to institute any initiatives, the goal of the committee is to connect schools and businesses and to ensure that activities/large events being held by businesses accommodate needs to schools to ensure participation of local students.

## **6. Major Stark County Career-Connected Learning Events for Students**

Christine Taylor shared that the goal is that school leaders know what major events are happening in the county and then to have a dialogue between the hosts and educators to learn which students should be part of those events to help those events have the most impact. As such, she welcomed attendees to share upcoming events.

- Akron-Canton Builds: Joe Stella and Samantha Rogers came together from different construction companies to create this event for the region. Last year was the first annual event held at the Summit County fairgrounds. They anticipate this year having 16 different apprenticeship programs present with interactive spaces. They are hoping to increase exposure this year to get more contractors, suppliers, etc. so there is more variety for students and more capacity for greater numbers of students. The event is a Wednesday and Thursday, and the Thursday afternoon session is open to parents and community members. They welcome all ages of students.
- Junior Achievement: Susan Koosh and Brittany Wells shared info about their Inspire to Hire career exploration event. The intention is not for students to sign up with employers for interviews/work; rather, it is for them to explore the options for careers locally. It is free for schools to attend, so they look for business sponsors to carry out the event in March at the Hall of Fame Center for Performance. Last year, they had 100 businesses participate. The event will be on Thursday, March 6 and is open/flexible to students ranging from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. School registration is currently open.
- Whitney Reinhart from Marathon Petroleum shared the extent of the operations in Stark County, including fleets for transporting over 2 million gallons of fuel to the Northeast/Central Ohio and western PA region. They have established an outreach team and are working with SEP to create educational opportunities. They have a student field day to educate students on their specific work and on general oil and gas industry information. The goal is to show the actual work but also the progression through fields at Marathon. They want 125 students to participate in the field day from various school districts next year. They are also having a summer internship/mentorship program for 8 students that applied to be part of that program as well.
- National First Ladies: Stephanie Bonneck shared that the First Ladies is doing a professional development program for 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade educators doing anything relating to history in partnership with SEP. In this program, educators will get to take away archival documents/pieces that they can then use in their classrooms. This program is free and will qualify for professional development/continuing education.
- SCMWDP: Shaun Eller and Barb Bennett shared that they are striving to keep Stark County students in the county and aware of the local manufacturing opportunities. As such, they will be hosting Manufacturing Day on October 10 during which students from different schools get to tour manufacturing facilities. They want to expand the schools

and companies involved and the event is open to students 9-12. Additionally, on October 14, SCMWDP will offer an educator bus tour for middle/high school teachers that will count for professional development. This is an opportunity for educators to see what happens in manufacturing so they can influence and inform students about the viable career pathways in Stark County. SCMWDP is also rolling out a “Made in Stark” coloring book/story book for second-grade students to introduce them to manufacturing. This is being created by Portage Career Center and they are building the framework for making it as part of high school career tech curriculum.

- John Richard shared that there is far more aptitude than interest in advanced manufacturing as seen in YouScience results
- Students do not have the necessary awareness of manufacturing opportunities even though they may be apt to be part of the sector.
- TomTod: Barb Bennett shared that Joel Daniel Harris was on medical leave after having a successful surgery but is recovering and preparing to return to operations. TomTod is putting on four weeks of middle school camp sponsored by SCMWDP in the month of June that is free but currently at capacity. Camp WhatIf is free for North Canton and Canton City Schools and those both have openings for students from those districts.
- Christine Taylor also shared that Alliance will be hosting a manufacturing camp in the summer as well and interested educators can contact Rick Baxter with any questions or interest.

Christine Taylor asked educators for their feedback on events/support that would make this all most effective. Educators shared that having preparation beforehand can help so that students are not stunned by the volume of new information at events. Others also emphasized a need for brief but necessary follow-up to remind/recap students. School administrators require details about timelines and need to stay on schedule because of bussing logistics. They stressed the importance of time of year and understanding of the targeted student population because certain students (think: seniors) are going to be less available at certain times of year.

## **7. Announcements**

John Richard concluded that providing timely information to school districts remains a top priority and credited Joe Chaddock and Dan Lowmiller for their assistance in assuring information is communicated to the districts.

The committee will reconvene in August at R.G. Drage with the intent of having a conversation with local and state-level legislators. Details are forthcoming. In September, the meeting will be at Ohio Gratings. October and November meetings are still open for hosts.

**Meeting concluded at 12:55pm.**