

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 8, 2024

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building

ADJOURN: 12:40 p.m.

ATTENDEES: A. Anderson, J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, D. Chase, K. Elsass, J. Goff, K. Herold, Andy Hill, T. Manion, L. McDermitt, B. Neiser, G. Rutherford, D. Slife, M. Washington, L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, A. Barton, J. Bilek, Jessica Goff, J. Lawrence, B. Pinkerton, M. Wagar, M. White

1. Approval of March 13 BAC Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved.

2. Presentation: Literacy Update (Michele Evans)

- a. Reading habits have changed, and there are fewer people reading each year.
- b. Historically, there have been differing opinions on how to best teach reading. Some advocate for meaning-based learning while others support code-based learning. The Science of Reading is a body of work that focuses on the study of how people learn to read and write.
- c. A National Reading Panel report was published in 2000 which found that a combination of strategies should be used to best teach children to read.
- d. Ohio was one of the first states to mandate phonics instruction.
- e. A recent change, and one of the biggest, is that districts must now select Kindergarten-grade 5 instructional reading materials from a list approved by the state. Having to adopt and purchase materials from the approved list is a first step towards district loss of control and is an unexpected cost to our district for the 2024-2025 school year.
- f. Professional development requirements in the science of reading are for each teacher and administrator.

- g. All Wadsworth City School teachers, grades Kindergarten through 3, and our Kindergarten through grade 5 intervention specialists have been trained in Orton-Gillingham.
- h. Dyslexia screening for Kindergarten through grade 3 was required for the 2023-2024 school year. In the future, the district may see a need for dyslexia specialists.

3. Presentation: Whole Child Initiative (Sara Kopacko)

- a. The Whole Child Advisory Council (previously the Mental Health Committee) for Wadsworth City Schools is made up of representatives from many different buildings/departments within the district. Our hopes are to have a pediatrician and business representative join the group.
- b. The whole child philosophy is a nationwide initiative that addresses five tenets to ensure that people are (1) healthy; (2) safe; (3) engaged; (4) supported; and (5) challenged.
- c. The Whole Child Advisory Council collects and analyzes data and then sets their priorities based on the data collected. Using a coordinated and collaborative approach, they also work with other school districts and help to ensure that the efforts among different committees are coordinated.

4. Review of April and May Board of Education Meetings

- a. At the April 8 meeting, a recommendation to adopt science textbooks for grades K-4 and some high school courses was approved.
- b. At the April 12 meeting, building tours of Valley View, Isham, and Lincoln Elementary Schools were conducted. Tours of Wadsworth Middle School, Overlook Elementary School, and Franklin Elementary School will continue Friday, May 10.
- c. Members of our Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO) met with our Board of Education members at the special meeting held on April 15.
- d. Some of the agenda items which will appear on the May 13 Board of Education meeting agenda include:
 - i. Two months of Student of the Month presentations (April students were not recognized at the April board meeting since school was not in session due to the eclipse.)
 - ii. Five-year financial forecast update from D. Beeman
 - iii. A presentation of the calendar for the 2026-2027 school year

- iv. A discussion of student fees
 - v. A discussion of Board of Education Policy 5223, Released Time for Religious Instruction
- e. We had some administrative retirements, resignations, and reassignments approved at our April/May board meetings:
- i. Steve Brady is retiring from the Isham Elementary School principal position and is being replaced by Joe Shalala, our current middle school assistant principal.
 - ii. Michele Evans is retiring from her position as Director of Instruction and Professional Development. The position is being filled by Eric Jackson, our current middle school principal.
 - iii. Chris Roberts will move to Wadsworth Middle School as principal. He currently is principal at Valley View Elementary School.
 - iv. Brad Musgrave is retiring as Athletic Director. Tim Campbell will replace him.
 - v. Chris Sieber, an assistant principal at Wadsworth High School, just announced his resignation. His resignation will appear on the May 13 Board of Education meeting agenda for approval.

5. Around the Table

a. A. Hill

- i. We have been working with the Board to address declining enrollment. Our hopes are that, over the years, any required reductions in staff can be completed through attrition. Four teaching positions are not being replaced this year through attrition.
- ii. The Grizzly Academy will be expanding to include 5th grade and a second kindergarten/1st grade class next year. Plans are to expand the program to include grades 6 through 12 the following year. The Grizzly Academy will continue to be housed in the administration building next year; with the additional classes, some of our administrative offices will be relocated to other parts of the admin building or other buildings. A decision will be made by October about where the Grizzly Academy classes and administrative offices will be located, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year.
- iii. Intermediate school construction continues and is on target to allow the school to open in August 2025.

- iv. A 2025-2026 BAC meeting schedule will be set and communicated to all members. Suggestions for meeting topics included the Neighborhood Bridges program, an ESC presentation of business initiatives, a follow-up on literacy, and a discussion on class selection/pathway tracks at the high school.

6. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.