

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 16, 2024

CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.

PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building

ADJOURN: 12:35 p.m.

ATTENDEES: J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, K. Elsass, J. Goff, A. Hill,  
J. Lawrence, T. Manion, L. McDermitt, B. Neiser, B. Pinkerton, G. Rutherford,  
D. Slife, L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, A. Anderson, A. Barton, J. Bilek, D. Chase, M. Wagar,  
M. White

1. Approval of May 8, 2024 BAC Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved.

2. Board of Education Updates Since May

a. Middle/High School Athletic Complex Master Plan

- i. The Master Plan Committee has met with staff and community members three times to date.
- ii. There are many needs/wants to be addressed, including parking, lighting, sidewalk installation around Loop Road, sound system installation near the track, and what is to be done with the old tennis courts.

b. 2021-2025 Strategic Plan

- i. A new five-year plan is on the horizon and will be completed no later than December 2025.
- ii. From the current strategic plan, the athletic complex master plan is one of the few remaining open items.

c. Personal Communication Devices (Policy 5136)

- i. State law requires that school districts implement a board policy regarding personal communication devices by July 1, 2025.
- ii. Our policy draws from our student handbooks:

1. Gr. K-4: No personal device use
2. Gr. 5-8: Personal device use for educational purposes; otherwise, it is to be stored in the student's bookbag, which is kept in their locker during the school day
3. Gr. 9-12: Personal device use for educational purposes and permitted during lunch; otherwise, it is to be stored in the student's bookbag, which the student carries with them throughout the day

- iii. Opinions differ on the best policy regarding cell phone use. Some argue that cell phone use coincides with an increase in bullying incidents (e.g., social media postings) while others feel that cell phone access ensures that parents/guardians can reach a student in the event of an emergency.

D. Slife will send an article to A. Hill about law enforcement's opinion on cell phone use by students during the school day. It is their opinion that in times of an emergency, cell phone use can be detrimental/unsafe because much of the information being relayed is inaccurate and can incite panic.

D. Slife also spoke about a book, *The Anxious Generation*, which addresses mental health among our youth. The book advocates for no cell phone use during the school day.

- iv. Personal device use will be a discussion item at the November Board of Education meeting.

d. Art Wright Stadium Turf

- i. We have been able to extend the life of the current turf by three years, but it is now in need of replacement.
- ii. End zone color choices were discussed at the October board, and a selection was made, which is similar to what we currently have.

e. New Intermediate School

- i. We are on target to open the school in August; the performing arts center will open in November or December.
- ii. We remain within the revised budget for the project.

f. Board of Education Goals

- i. The Board of Education has set their goals for the 2024-2025 school year:

1. As part of their efforts to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance, the Board members would like to focus on what we can do as a district to mitigate the effects of bullying.
2. The Board would also like to continue to create a climate of support and appreciation for district staff. Each month, one of the buildings/departments will be featured on WCTV's *Striving to be the Best*.

Board members also complete tours and attend events and programs at the individual buildings.

3. Another goal was to build on the Board of Education's financial IQ, which includes monitoring the budget vs. actual costs of the new intermediate school.
4. As part of their goal to communicate with the greater Wadsworth community, the Board plans to meet with our building PTO presidents on November 20. Consideration is also being given to a "Meet Your Board Member" night when community members would have an opportunity to meet and speak with our Board members.

g. Release Time for Religious Instruction

- i. The Board revised its release time for religious instruction policy, which primarily affects the students participating in the LifeWise Academy. Students were previously released during encore classes (physical education, art, and music), but the revised policy will allow for release time only during lunch and recess. This amounts to approximately 40 minutes.

There are currently 39 students at Lincoln Elementary, 18 students at Overlook Elementary, and 13 students at Franklin Elementary participating. LifeWise Academy plans to expand the program to Valley View Elementary and Isham Elementary this school year.

h. State Report Card

- i. The State report card was issued last month, and Eric Jackson provided a presentation to the Board of Education at the October 14 meeting. The focus was on early literacy (State requirement that staff complete Science of Reading training by June 30) and chronic absenteeism.

i. Quality Profile

- i. The [2023-2024 Quality Profile](#) was released and captures information not contained within the State report card.
- j. Student Instructional Fees
  - i. The student instructional fees, which have remained the same, were board-approved. A listing of all fees was compiled and made available to families.
- k. Grizzly Academy/Administration Building
  - i. Two-thirds of the Charles R. Parsons Administration Building is dedicated to the Grizzly Academy. Next year, the Grizzly Academy will require additional space as it expands to include students through grade 12.
  - ii. A decision will be finalized this week as to where the administrative offices and the Grizzly Academy will be housed next year since the current building will not be able to accommodate both when the Grizzly Academy expands.
- l. Plans for the Current Central Intermediate School
  - i. We are working with legal counsel to evaluate the various pathways available to sell the current CIS property.
- m. Financial Update
  - i. The year-end fiscal reports were Board-approved in June and reflect revenue of \$58.4M and expenditures of \$59.5M. This deficit spending is not ideal, but it was expected (ESSER funding has ended) and planned for.
  - ii. An amended five-year forecast will be submitted to the Board at the next meeting.
  - iii. The Compact carpentry house sold over the summer for \$245K. The house for the current school year is being built on the neighboring lot.

### 3. Around the Table

- a. The trees have been removed from the property that the district purchased on the north side of Broad Street, in front of Overlook Elementary School. We would like to use the property to align our entrance/exit to the school with the traffic light.
- b. The next BAC meeting will be held on November 20 and will include a presentation on Neighborhood Bridges.

### 4. Adjournment

a. The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.