BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 14, 2025 CONVENE: 11:30 a.m.
PLACE: Charles R. Parsons Administration Building ADJOURN: 12:45 p.m.

ATTENDEES: A. Anderson, J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, A. Hill, L. McDermitt, B. Pinkerton, L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, J. Bilek, D. Chase, K. Elsass, J. Goff, J. Lawrence, T. Manion, B. Neiser, G. Rutherford, D. Slife, M. Wagar, M. White

1. Approval of March 12, 2025 BAC Meeting Minutes

    a. The minutes were approved.

2. Presentation: District Literacy Program (Eric Jackson, Director of Instruction & Prof. Dev.)

    a. In 2023, House Bill 33 mandated a significant shift in how reading is taught. The district's curriculum was reviewed to ensure that it aligned with the State's new Science of Reading.

    b. There were 264 students who took the kindergarten assessment for English/ Language Arts. Forty-seven (47) of those students scored *well below the benchmark*, but by mid-year, when retested, only nineteen (19) scored *well below the benchmark*.

    There were fifty-three (53) students who initially scored *below the benchmark*, but sixty-two (62) students scored *below the benchmark* mid-year. The higher number mid-year may be, in part, to some of the students moving from the *well below the benchmark* level.

    c. RTI (Response to Intervention) services are provided at three different levels, according to the needs of the individual student:

        i. Tier 1: Supportive instruction within the typical classroom setting

        ii. Tier 2: Small group instruction provided to students who are not making adequate progress in Tier 1

        iii. Tier 3: One-on-one support for those students who are not making adequate progress with Tier 1 and Tier 2 interventions

d. Chronic absenteeism, which is trending downward, is an issue when trying to provide effective instruction to students. We do conduct home visits when the problem persists, and we solicit help from the courts when we are unable to resolve the issue on our own.

e. The district has three (3) literacy coaches. These coaches split their time between teaching in the classroom and providing support to teachers. Literacy will be a focus for the district next year, and we will be looking at how to best utilize the literacy coaches.

3. Review of Board of Education Meetings Since March 12, 2025

    a. April 14 Board of Education Meeting

        i. The State budget bill was discussed.

        ii. A date was set for an information session for potential Board of Education members; three seats will be available.

        iii. A decision was made to not join the coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding. If vouchers are eliminated, questions remain if all the money will be returned to the public schools.

        iv. The Board approved adoption of social studies textbooks for the 2025-2026 school year.

    b. April 17 Special Board of Education Meeting

        i. Board members toured Wadsworth High School and the Four Cities Compact programs at Copley High School.

    c. April 25 Special Board of Education Meeting

        i. In executive session, Board members rendered a decision on an appeal that was heard at the April 14 Board of Education meeting.

    d. May 12 Board of Education Meeting

        i. Board members held a public hearing regarding the retire/rehire of Mr. Andy Booth for the 2025-2026 school year.

        ii. Highlights from Doug Beeman's presentation on the five-year financial forecast included the following:

            1. There was an increase in revenue from what was projected, due primarily from property taxes and retro Nexus tax payments.

2. House Bill 96: The governor's proposal continues the Fair Share Funding Plan, but it does phase out the guarantee. The House proposal pauses the Fair Share Funding Plan and institutes a 30% carryover balance limit. If the 30% carryover balance limit is enacted, there will be a need for more frequent levies at a lower millage rate.

3. State aid should remain the same.

4. Around the Table/Screen

    a. A. Hill

        i. Wadsworth Intermediate School remains on target for completion. The performing arts portion of the building is scheduled for completion in November or December.

        ii. We are currently working on the sale documents for the current Central Intermediate School.

        iii. The move of the administration staff to Wadsworth High School will be completed in three phases:

            1. The Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's offices will move on May 20.

            2. The Dept. of Instruction/Professional Development and the Student Services departments will move in June.

            3. The Treasurer's office will move in the beginning of July.

        iv. Some of the topics suggested for next year's BAC meetings included Four Cities Compact updates, physical security/technology updates, and the Grizzly Academy.

        v. The BAC's first meeting will be held in September. We will meet in the media center of Wadsworth High School (second floor).

5. Adjournment

    a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.