

**Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes  
May 27, 2025**

Location Host: Cultural Center for the Arts, 1001 Market Avenue North,  
Canton, Ohio 44702

**Attendance**

Emil Alecusan	Maureen “Mo” Ater	Barb Bennett	Toff Bentzel	Theresa Benzel
Joseph Chaddock	Jeff Dafler	Becky DeHart	Shaun Eller	Brent Fatzinger
Dave Fischer	Teresa Fox	Rob Gress	Joel Daniel Harris	Tamiko Hatcher
Mike Hearn	Gary Kandel	Greg King	Jennifer Kessel	Rebecca Kuzma
Dan Lowmiller	Patrick Masalko	Robert McBride	John Richard	Tiffany Rogers
Michelle Shaffer	Randolph Snow	Jeffrey Talbert	Lisa Talbert	Matt Ziders

**1. Welcome and Call to Order**

John Richard called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

**2. Approval of agenda and April 22, 2025, minutes**

John Richard asked for approval of today’s agenda, as well as the minutes from the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Dave Fischer made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes, and Barb Bennett seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried.

**3. Welcome & Presentation of ArtsinStark – Becky DeHart, Director of Education and Community Outreach, ArtsinStark**

Becky DeHart explained the three main pillars of ArtsinStark: art and well-being, arts and vitality, and arts and education. Becky highlighted the S.M.A.R.T.S. program, an arts integration program that has been around since 2009 and pairs classroom teachers with professional artists to teach academic subjects. The program’s success is attributed to the support and buy-in from district administrators, school building leaders and classroom teachers.

**4. Program Demonstration – Teaching Artist for ArtsinStark Patrick Masalko**

Becky DeHart introduced Patrick Masalko a local musician who has been a part of the S.M.A.R.T.S. program for over a decade. Patrick discussed his experiences with the program, including a recent project at East Canton in Osnaburg Twp where students rewrote an AC/DC song. Patrick explained how the program helps students understand the connections between music and poetry, and how it fosters collaboration among

students. Patrick described various projects he has led, such as building instruments in science class and teaching fractions through drumming. He emphasized the importance of making learning fun and engaging for students, which helps students work together, gaining a valuable skill for the real world.

**5. Community Partner Update – Shaun Eller, President, Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership**

Shaun Eller introduced the “Made in Stark” book, which has been distributed to second-graders in local schools. Sean outlined various manufacturing and education initiatives, including a coloring contest with the second-grade reading and activity book, and a camp for middle schoolers. Sean also highlighted the success of the high school Manufacturing Day and the educator tour of local manufacturing plants. Sean discussed the Junior Achievement Career Fair Exploration, where the Stark Education Partnership was a major sponsor. The partnership supports career-connected learning opportunities, college co-ops, and summer internships. Sean mentioned the career welding program and the successful placement of unemployed candidates in entry-level manufacturing positions and emphasized the need for developing a pipeline of skilled workers to meet the demands of local manufacturers. Sean concluded with the importance of collaboration between businesses, educators, and organizations to support workforce development.

**6. Year in Review & Future Planning – John Richard, Stark Education Partnership**

John Richard explained that the mission of the BAC is to advise, support, and empower educators to prepare young people for employment and foster a workforce that contributes to the community and supports the mission of Stark County. John noted that this year the CRCC Education / BAC Committee tried to make it to as many businesses and organizations as possible to support them and expose them to the various job and career sectors that are available. John advised that the August kickoff meeting will be held at Employer’s Health, hosted by Chris Goff, with a plan to refresh the committee’s mission and goals. John also noted the goal to hold future meetings at local higher educational institutions. John requested that today’s meeting participants fill out a feedback form followed by a brief discussion. The committee discussed improving business engagement, measuring success, and enhancing educational partnerships and a potential survey to gather more data from the group in the future.

**7. Adjourn:**

John Richard requested a motion to adjourn at 12:45pm. Theresa Benzel made the motion, and Shaun Eller seconded.