

BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: October 24, 2025
PLACE: WHS Media Center

CONVENE: 10:00 a.m.
ADJOURN: 11:15 a.m.

ATTENDEES: A. Anderson, J. Batey, D. Beeman, K. Breitenbucher, D. Chase, J. Goff,
A. Hill, J. Lawrence, T. Manion, L. McDermitt, G. Rutherford, D. Slife,
M. Wagar, L. Giermann

ABSENT: P. Alic, E. Allwood, J. Bilek, K. Elsass, B. Neiser, B. Pinkerton, M. White

1. Approval of May 14, 2025 BAC Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes were approved.

2. Board of Education Updates Since May

a. June 9, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

- i. Two schools, Wadsworth High School and Valley View Elementary School, received the Purple Star Award. The award recognizes schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to the nation's military.

b. June 30, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

- i. New hires for the 2025-2026 school year were board-approved. The district attempts to fill as many vacancies as possible by July 10. After July 10, a district is not required to release a current employee from their current contract.

c. July 10, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

- i. Additional new hires for the 2025-2026 school year were board-approved.

d. July 30, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

- i. A two-year administrative contract was board-approved for Christopher Dulka, our new principal at Isham Elementary School.

e. August 11, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights

- i. Some substitute rates of pay were raised and board-approved in an effort to be more competitive and reduce the number of vacancies that go unfilled during the school year.
 - 1. We do offer higher rates of pay for retired Wadsworth City School employees who choose to sub and for those substitutes who serve at least 15 consecutive days (as a teacher) in the same position.
 - 2. The district continues to face challenges filling custodial and aide positions.

- f. August 14, August 21, and September 4, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights
 - i. The meeting included a board member discussion on the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. We are in the process of compiling a draft and will seek board member input at next week's board meeting. The final version is expected to be submitted to the board at the December meeting.

- g. September 8, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights
 - i. Several policies were board-approved for a first reading. The policies are required in order to align with House Bill 96 revisions.

- h. September 30, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights
 - i. The policies that were board-approved for a first reading on September 8 were board-approved and adopted at the September 30 meeting. This aligns with the date that the policies took effect as law.

- i. October 3, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights
 - i. The October 3 board meeting included building tours of the Grizzly Academy, Lincoln Elementary School, Valley View Elementary School, and Isham Elementary School.

- j. October 13, 2025 Board Meeting Highlights
 - i. Doug Beeman presented information on the district's financial forecast.
 - 1. There is an increasing demand for property tax reform. Property taxes have risen due to skyrocketing home values (46% increase since 2020) and the shift in burden from the state and business community to homeowners.

2. Sixty-two (62) percent of Ohio school districts are at the 20-mill floor, which means that as property values go up, millage rates do too. Our district has not yet reached the 20-mill floor.
3. The effective millage rate in 1976 was 34.3 mills; today's rate is 28.4 mills.
4. County commissioners are also looking to piggyback the homestead exemption for Medina County; the proposal would mean up to a \$555,000 annual loss to our district.
5. The district is always looking at ways to cut costs. For the current school year, we were able to decrease the number of teachers, through attrition, by eight. Due to the expansion of the Grizzly Academy, we hired six additional teachers. This resulted in a net difference of two less teachers.
6. Due to severance and vacation day pay for retiring employees, the district generally doesn't experience any savings in the first year.
7. The healthcare renewal rate for 2025-2026 is 15.56%.
8. Increases in purchased services are due primarily to tuition (placement of students outside the district) and HVAC.
9. The district will be required to write a correction plan due to anticipated negative cash balances in 2028 and 2029. The plan will need to address how we plan to correct the negative balance.

3. Around the Room/Screen

- a. The Central Intermediate School property has been transferred to its new owners. Plans are that the property will host live shows and will also include Airbnb rentals.
- b. A ribbon cutting for the new intermediate school was held in August. Plans are for the new performing arts portion of the facility to open at the end of November.
- c. It was noted that there are concerns about the measure the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce is using to calculate the College of Career, Workforce, and Military Readiness measure.

4. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. and was followed by a tour of the new intermediate school, for those interested.