

Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes
March 24, 2026

Location Host: Jackson High School, 7600 Fulton NW, Massillon, OH 44646

Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Rick Baxter	Barbara Bennett	Theresa Benzel	Marty Bowe
Scott Campbell	Matt Cola	Chris DiLoreto	Shaun Eller	Barbara Ewing-Cockroft
Joel Daniel Harris	Karen Jepsen	Susan Koosh	Eugene Lingenhoel	Dan Lowmiller
Chad Merritt	Robert McBride	Touby McCammon	Adam McKenzie	John Richard
Christina Schnyders	Michele Shaffer	Nathan Stutz	Lisa Talbert	Larry Tausch
Christine Taylor	Matt Whitted	Matt Ziders	Todd Hawke	J.R. Reindel
Jeff Breit	Scott Gindlesberger	Jason Orin	Tonya Wright	Todd Porter

1. Call to Order. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda and 2/27 Minutes

Dr. John Richard, President, Stark Education Partnership, called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. John requested a motion to approve the 2/27 minutes. Jeff Dafler pointed out a change in the minutes to reflect that Lindsey Loftus from Stark State College had been in attendance. Chris DiLoreto made the motion to approve the updated minutes, and Barbara Ewing-Cockroft seconded. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried.

2. Jackson High School Welcome – Chris DiLoreto, Superintendent, Jackson Local Schools

Chris Diloreto introduced himself and mentioned the Jackson district’s focus on succession planning. Chris has been the superintendent since 2011.

3. Jackson Local Schools Presentation: Succession Planning – Chris DiLoreto, Superintendent, Jackson Local Schools, Matt Ziders, Principal Jackson High School, and J.R. Reindel, Sauder Elementary Principal.

Chris introduced the presentation outlining Jackson Local’s approach to preparing leaders for future roles and focus on succession planning. He cited a Harvard Business Review article on the impact of leadership transitions on organizational vision, culture, and performance. He highlighted the importance of board alignment and the average superintendent tenure of 3.6 years. Chris introduced the concept of building a bench of future leaders and the importance of interviewing for jobs that don’t exist yet. Chris mentioned the role of the Ohio School Teachers Retirement System and the challenges of burnout and career changes, along with the importance of using an MBA program for intentional professional development.

Matt Ziders, Principal at Jackson High School, discussed the impact of the MBA program on his decision making. He addressed the Ohio report card measures and the challenges of meeting the college, career, workforce, and military readiness measures. Matt introduced the DMAIC framework (Define, Measure, Analyze, Improve, Control) to address challenges. He outlined the steps taken to improve the college credit and work-based learning measures, including building a user-friendly database and focusing on specific classes.

J.R. Reindel, Principal, Sauder Elementary, discussed the importance of brand management and stakeholder feedback. J.R. shared data from a Qualtrics survey, highlighting the positive feedback and areas for improvement. J.R. introduced the concept of the organizational chart and the different pressures and opportunities at each level while emphasizing the importance of management by walking around (MBWA) and the benefits of seeing the work being done.

4. Stark County Community Housing Update – Todd Hawke, Community / Government & Business Engagement Director, Stark Economic Development Board

Todd Hawke discussed the importance of housing for economic development and the findings of a 2024 housing study. Todd highlighted the median income and home prices in Stark County and the challenges of affordability. Todd introduced various scenarios of people, and their housing affordability challenges, including single moms and families with multiple incomes. Todd outlined the recommendations from the housing study, including educational, regulatory improvements and partnerships with developers and nonprofit builders to address the housing shortage.

5. Canton Regional Chamber Educator Bootcamp Update – Christine Taylor, Vice President, Programs and Partnerships, Stark Education Partnership

Christine Taylor stated the Educator Bootcamp is June 2nd – 4th. The three-day event gives two graduate credit hours free from the University of Mount Union after completing all 3 days and a project. Christine asked that prior year attendees do not attend, to allow others the opportunity to participate.

- Day 1 Manufacturing Day being presented by SCMWDP will have Massillon Container, Ohio Gratings and Hendrickson Navarre tours.
- Day 2 Engineering Day will be at the Timken Company headquarters, SoL Harris/Day Architecture and Seifert Technologies.
- Day 3 Healthcare Day will be at Aultman.

6. Adjourn

John Richard adjourned the meeting at 1:04PM.