

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021  
**PLACE:** Meeting Held Remotely via Google Meet

**CONVENE:** 11:30 a.m.  
**ADJOURN:** 12:45 p.m.

**ATTENDEES:** Adam Barton, Julie Batey, Doug Beeman, Kathy Breitenbucher, Dan Chase, T.J. DeAngelis, Andy Hill, Linda Kramer, Jim Lawrence, Tim Manion, Laura McDermitt, Bill Neiser, Brian Pinkerton, Glen Rutherford, Daniel Slife, Michael Wagar, Laura Giermann

**ABSENT:** Paul Alic, Erik Allwood, Karl Elsass, Jim Gray, Jason Venner

1. Review Minutes from January 13 BAC meeting
  - a. Minutes were approved.
2. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Students (Presentation by Sara Kopacko and Meagan Neumann)
  - a. Student attendance: The high school experienced a significant decrease in student attendance leading up to the holidays (tracking attendance for Wadsworth Wired students has been difficult) which resulted in the high school moving to remote learning.

Wadsworth Wired students are reported absent only when work is not being completed and submitted. Our focus is on students who are not showing up or completing their work remotely. Absence intervention teams are formed and plans are created in response to excessive absences. Some situations, when serious enough, are referred to the court.
  - b. We have seen a decrease in the volume of work that is being submitted at all grade levels
  - c. Retention rates: Generally, there are 10 students that are candidates for retention; this year there are 80-90. In past years, we have held a summer reading program, but we are looking at providing something more comprehensive this summer in order to get students back on track. We also plan to offer credit recovery summer classes. We are determining the best way to encourage student participation. An important component of a summer school program will include a mental health component.
  - d. Risk assessments: Risk assessments are administered to students who may be contemplating self-harm. The number of assessments administered at the middle school and high school are lower than in past years; elementary numbers remain the same. The decrease may be associated with the fact that some of the at-risk students are in the Wadsworth Wired program. By not attending school in-person,

some of these students who are exhibiting at-risk behaviors may go undetected. It should be noted that the district does have a system (Securly) that alerts administrators when a student is logged into their Wadsworth account (on or off campus) and enters/searches info about self-harm. We started using Securly in 2019; there have been 92 alerts to date, 1/3 of which have been received since September of this school year.

- e. Police reports: Proactive policing has decreased and can be attributed to the desire to avoid exposure to Covid-19.
- f. Abuse/neglect of children may be underreported due to the number of students in remote learning.
- g. The number of families receiving food bags is down. This may be attributed to a fear of COVID contamination from bags and/or families not being aware they are eligible. The district is providing a free breakfast and lunch to all students which may have alleviated some of the burden for families.
- h. Red Oak Counseling referrals: There has been a significant increase in the number of people who are receiving services.
- i. ACE (Adverse childhood experiences): The more ACEs an individual has, the more at risk for negative health outcomes he/she is. Ohio is higher than the national average. The COVID-19 pandemic can raise an individual's ACE score.
- j. It is important to learn how to build resilience. It is possible to teach people how to be resilient, but some of the avenues we have used in the past to build those skills are not available during the pandemic (e.g., mentoring, peer tutoring, volunteer tutoring, team meals, etc.). It is hoped that as warmer weather approaches, we will be able to bring groups together outside and offer some opportunities that we are unable to accommodate inside.
- k. Some students are experiencing success with their online work, but soft skill development is lacking. One of the positive impacts of online learning is that students are developing their tech skills.
- l. While we have encountered difficulties during the past year due to the pandemic, our priority has been to provide a safe environment in which we can educate our students.

### 3. February 8 Board of Education Meeting

- a. An update on the CIS project was provided. Discussions about a potential ballot issue are taking place. August 4 is the deadline to submit information to the Board of Elections in order to have an issue appear on the November ballot.

- b. MOU with WEA: There has been an increase in the number of students who moved into Wired. There were no additional staffing needs in grades K-4 associated with the move to Wired. In grades 5-8 we were unable to move additional students into existing Wired classes (classes were filled to capacity), and we have not been able to secure subs in order to establish additional classes. We were able to accommodate student requests in grades 9-12 who wanted to make a move to the Wired classroom.

The MOU will provide a stipend for teachers who have been providing instruction in the classroom as well as in Wired. The anticipated cost to increase the Wired program was thought to be \$135,000. It will be closer to \$65,000-\$70,000 since we haven't been able to secure long-term subs for grades 5-8.

- c. A resolution was passed that does away with the bachelor degree requirement for substitutes.
- d. D. Beeman reported on the reward points from use of the district credit card and how those points were used.
- e. Contract of Dr. Hill was extended for an additional five (5) years.

#### 4. Around the Room

- a. COVID Indicators: Student attendance rate district-wide has increased by about 1%. Employee attendance rate for support staff is at 95% and is slightly below 90% for teachers. The substitute fill rate for certified staff is up, but the fill rate for classified staff is at only 50%. As far as the number of reported COVID cases, we saw a decrease of 14 cases this past week. Nine students were quarantined last week, and ten employees are in quarantine (that number has been as high as 40). We are also tracking when we do not have a sub for a position and the position is being filled by others within the district.
- b. We are beginning work on the Strategic Plan. We are laying out classes for those students who are not planning on going to college or a vocational program. We are looking at allowing students to earn credit while they are working and trying to determine what that pathway looks like.
- c. Plans are moving ahead for next year. We will begin posting positions for known vacancies. When considering Wadsworth Wired for next year, we may have families who would like to continue and may look elsewhere if we don't offer online learning.
- d. Kathy Breitenbucher reported about Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, a program that is being considered by seven districts within the county. There are logistic concerns, and more needs to be learned before the program is offered.
- e. High school staff will be invited to the March 10 BAC meeting to address item 4(b) above.