

GEAUGA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 19, 2024 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
Geauga County Job & Family Services
12611 Ravenwood Drive 3rd floor (B167 & B168), Chardon, Ohio 44024

Mission Statement (Per ORC 3313.84): *The mission of the ESWR Business Advisory Council (BAC) is to foster cooperation among our member schools, businesses, and the communities they serve to make our education system more aware of the local labor market; promote work-based experiences within businesses; and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.*

Minutes

1. Opening Items:

- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of the September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes - [Link](#)
- Geauga County [Bylaws](#)

2. Superintendent Updates - Jennifer Felker

- Levy Outcomes:
 - Approximately 50% of levies passed (statewide: 40% new, 65% renewals).
 - ESCWR levy successful, schools may not be able to pursue a new levy in May.
- b. Challenges in Public Education:
 - Perceived declining value of public education
 - Impact of school choice policies on public schools.
- c. State Initiatives:
 - Emphasis on literacy and College Credit Plus (CCP) computer science.
 - Math Proficiency lagging behind literacy; potential for new math-focused mandates
 - Workforce development remains a priority.
- d. Special Education Needs:
 - Geauga DD no longer educating in-house; ESC facing educator shortages
 - Competitive pay needed for aids and teachers to meet increasing demand.
- e. Vocational Education (VO-ED):
 - 33 employees supporting VO-ED programs.
- f. Tutoring:
 - Grant-funded tutoring at Cardinal; exploring virtual tutoring options.

3. **Guest Speaker** - Dr. Jack Cunningham, Superintendent, Cardinal Local Schools
 - **Industry Partnerships (Middlefield):**
 - Building stronger relationships between students and local industries beyond job fairs.
 - **Example initiatives:**
 - **Lean Six Sigma:** All Cardinal students graduate with at least a Yellow Belt.
 - **STEM Training Lab:** 7th-8th graders earning credentials in SolidWorks CAD and CNC.
 - **ACE (Agriculture Career Education Academy):** Independent from Cardinal but offers students pathways in agriculture (e.g., drone certifications, welding, internships).
4. **Workforce Development Highlights:**
 - **HC Companies:** Paid 12-week internships.
 - **STNA Program:** Certification and paid clinicals for students aged 16+
5. **BAC Seal Tracking:**
 - Schools must document and report OhioMeansJobs Seal hours for workforce activities (shadowing, internships, etc.).
 - ESC to submit reports to the state; failure to report impacts district report cards.
6. **LEC NeoSTEM Event for your students, March 10** - For 10th - 11th grade girls. Schools must provide busing.
7. **Group Discussion:**
 - **Team Building:**
 - Example from Great Lakes Cheese: Quarterly manager meetings, mental health initiatives, and partnerships with Ravenwood for on-site counseling.
 - **Collaboration with ACE:**
 - Pros and cons of partnering with independent programs like ACE.
8. **Geauga Growth Partnership Updates:**
 - Focus on economic development and workforce programming since 2010.
 - **Current initiatives**
 - Curating STEM panels and career awareness tours for schools.
 - Districts to arrange busing for participation
9. **Tutoring:** Seeking businesses to provide staff as tutors; no teaching background required.

10. Celebrations:

- Auburn Update; \$4.2 million state funding for facility upgrades, including new spaces for exercise physiology and public safety programs. Open house in Spring 2025.
- **West Geauga Achievements:**
 - West Geauga Middle School ranked 7th in Ohio by U.S. News & World Report.
 - Elementary school ranked 17th in Ohio by U.S. News & World Report.

Jack Cunningham: Recognized strong district performance and efforts to retain students in Geauga County.

Future Meeting Dates:

- Geauga BAC Meeting - Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Location - ISSQUARED Technology Center, 100 7th Ave., Chardon, OH 44024
- Geauga BAC Meeting - Tuesday, April 08, 2025 at 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Location - 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, OH 44024
- Geauga BAC Meeting - Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
Location - 12611 Ravenwood Dr., Chardon, OH 44024