

GEAUGA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 8:00 - 9:30 AM

Issquared Inc.

100 Seventh Avenue, Chardon Ohio 44024

AGENDA

1. Motion to begin the meeting at 8:10 a.m. by Kimm Leininger; Second Nancy Santilli
2. Roll Call: Jennifer Felker, Nancy Santilli, Jaina Gandolfi, Dan Wilson, Kimm Leininger, Jack Cunningham, Richard Markwardt, Tamee Tucker, Margo Redo, Brittain Paul, Maggie Carpenter, Klara Muster, John Epprecht, Becky Oliver, John Stoddard,
 - a. Invited Guests
 - i. Bala Ramaiah, CEO Issquared Inc
3. Approval of the September 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes, First Kim Leininger; Second Jack Cunningham
4. Motion to approve new Member: Issquared - Bala Ramaiah, CEO and Kevin Hagan, Chief Accounting Officer, First Tamee Tucker, Second Richard Markwardt
5. **ISSQUARED INC.** - Bala Ramaiah
 - a. Company Introduction
 - i. A market-leading provider of IT Consulting, Cybersecurity, Cloud, IT Infrastructure, Managed IT Services, and communications.
 - ii. Offers a comprehensive portfolio of products to address operational excellence and solve most pressing security and governance needs.
 - iii. Designs, builds and manages IT solutions for customers and security.
 - iv. Bala is open to bringing schools in for employer tours.
 - v. Would like to grow and bring in a lot of tech jobs, make that the main headquarters.
6. **GGP Updates – Kimm Leininger, Maggie Carpenter, Klara Muster**
 - a. NEOEA Day Summary
 - i. Was a great success and did not have the educator attendance they hoped for but a lot of individuals who gained a lot from the experience.
 - ii. Ohman family living at Briar is an assisted living home, they have grown a great partnership with. They received great emails from families with great feedback.
 - iii. Escape Design excavation and landscaping business learned about design aspects, business and field aspects as well as types of people they are looking for such as degrees and qualifications to work in that field.
 - iv. Great Lake Cheese focuses on all types of employment they can offer from entry level to top tier level.
 - b. Incubator Program planning and upcoming changes
 - i. An internship program will be 6- 8 weeks. They are slowly making a roll out to give a summer opportunity for Geauga Students. Would like to make it a year long apprenticeship program.
 - ii. Trying to match students up with business. Last year they had 18 students complete the program. This year they would like to reach 40 students.

- iii. [Youth Workforce Program](#)
- c. January Career Exploration Open House
 - i. January 12th 2023 5:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. at Kent State Geauga. Registration is on the website ggpworkforce.com. This is for parents, students and businesses. Feel free to sign up.
- d. NEOEA Day
 - i. A day for professional development. Having teachers go out in the community and tour businesses to see what is available for students. Next year, invite educators as well as students and parents.

7. 2022-2023 Geauga BAC initiatives and add small group discussion

- a. Break into small groups for feedback.
- b. Districts expressed need for continued GGP paid internships across all of Geauga districts in place of entry level positions that do not lead to future careers.
- c. Employers indicated the need for meaningful soft skill training through Career Exploration and internships.
- d. College graduates lacking soft skills.
- e. Transportation there is a need to increase transportation options for students. Recommendation for internships to include cost of transportation.
- f. A continued need for creating career pathways and training opportunities for students not in Auburn or College.
- g. JFS and GGP to focus on opportunities for students not on a college/career pathway look at Job Fairs.
- h. Jennifer suggested starting a committee to continue with the movement on Job Fairs and how to do initiatives.
- i. Continued need to increase district participation in Geauga BAC corporate challenges.

8. School Updates - All

- a. Chris Mitchell - Auburn Career Center
- b. John Stoddard - Berkshire
- c. Jack Cunningham - Cardinal
- d. Richard Markwardt - West Geauga November 17
- e. Kelly Moran - ESCWR, Corporate Challenge, Speakers Series
 - i. November 8th Lake BAC holding a Speakers Series at Lakeland University Holden Center, Room E119. To register for the speaker series an invite to go out with Lake Bac.
 - ii. Having speakers come in conjunction with the business advisory contact business wise.
 - iii. Corporate challenge Wednesday, November 2nd at Cardinal High School DA surgical.
 - iv. Give back November 22nd working with the Painesville Salvation Army feeding about 90 people. Is there anyone who would like to participate or help in feeding the family?
 - v. State of the Schools is still open to register for this Friday November 4th.
- f. Jennifer has worked with the Geauga hunger task force to get a grant to help with the cost for school lunches and how the schools can get into those funds.
 - i. Summer programs and after school programs are a success.

9. Higher Ed Updates - All

- a. Angela Spalsbury - Kent State Geauga
- b. Dave Enzerra - Lakeland Community College

10. Business Updates - All

- a. Teresa Simon - AWT
- b. Brittain Paul - Ravenwood Health
- c. John Epprecht and Becky Oliver - Great Lakes Cheese
- d. Tama Justen - Cabinetworks
- e. Suzanne LaRocca - Mercury Plastics
- f. Dave Patterson - Patterson Farms
- g. Rita Okonji - Tarkett USA
- h. Julie Gorenc - Kinetico

- i. Maggie Zock - DA Surgical

11. Ohio Means Jobs Geauga- Margo Reda

- a. In 2019 Berkshire did a job fair and the number one concern was that students did not know how to interact or answer questions.
- b. Students have been working on resumes and how to answer questions, make eye contact as well as doing mock interviews.
- c. Students were encouraged that it was a good event and it showed to be successful for them.
- d. The Job Fair stated that students were very prepared.

12. Future Meeting Dates

- a. January 10, 2023
- b. March 7, 2023
- c. May 9, 2023
- d. Location(s)
 - i. What businesses would like to host meetings and have a tour of their facilities?

13. Meeting Adjourned at 9:47 a.m. John Stoddard - first and Kimm Leininger- Second