



**Providing Quality Services**  
Building Valued Partnerships

**Northwest Ohio ESC Business Advisory Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 19, 2024**

**9:00 AM – 11:30 AM**

**Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, 205 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, OH 43502**

	LAST	FIRST	AGENCY	POSITION		LAST	FIRST	AGENCY	POSITION
X	<b>Armstrong</b>	Troy	Wauseon	Superintendent	X	<b>Lake</b>	Chris	Swanton	Superintendent
X	<b>Arnold</b>	Steve	Central Local	Superintendent	X	<b>Lichty</b>	Travis	Montpelier	Superintendent
X	<b>Arps</b>	Jennifer	Henry County CIC	Executive Director	X	<b>Lorenzen</b>	Abby	NwoESC	CFO/BAC Secretary
X	<b>Atkinson</b>	Tori	NSCC/AMC	Executive Director	X	<b>Mansel- Pleydell</b>	John	NWOCA/STEAM/AMC	Supervisor
X	<b>Becher</b>	Brian	Ayersville	Superintendent	X	<b>Morton</b>	Robert	Defiance City	Superintendent
	<b>Belcher</b>	Angie	Fayette	Superintendent	X	<b>Peters</b>	Richie	Liberty Center	Superintendent
X	<b>Belcher</b>	Erik	Napoleon	Superintendent	X	<b>Rairigh</b>	Mark	Bryan City	Superintendent
X	<b>Biederstedt</b>	Josh	Patrick Henry	Superintendent	X	<b>Remer</b>	Michael	NwoESC	Business-Education Liaison/Co-Chair
	<b>Burke</b>	Jon	Pike Delta York	Superintendent	X	<b>Rex</b>	Chad	NwoESC/STEAM	Director
	<b>Bute</b>	Michael	North Central	Superintendent	X	<b>Riley</b>	Steve	Millcreek-West Unity	Superintendent
	<b>Clark</b>	Josh	Pettisville	Superintendent	X	<b>Schuette</b>	Jessica	Holgate	Superintendent
X	<b>Cooke</b>	LuAnne	Lt. Governor's Office	Regional Liaison	X	<b>Selgo</b>	Jayson	Archbold	Superintendent
X	<b>Countryman</b>	Keith	Hicksville	Superintendent	X	<b>Slattery</b>	Jeff	Four County Career Center	Superintendent
	<b>Drewes</b>	Jim	NSCC	Director of Workforce	X	<b>Smola</b>	Eric	Evergreen	Superintendent
X	<b>Epling</b>	Ashley	Williams County ED	Executive Director	X	<b>Stevens</b>	Anthony	Edon	Superintendent
X	<b>Gilroy</b>	Matthew	Fulton County ED	Executive Director	X	<b>Weir</b>	Kerri	NwoESC	Superintendent/Co- Chair
	<b>Stantz</b>	Jennifer	Williams County ED	Assistant Director	X	<b>Wells</b>	Nicole	Northeastern	Superintendent
X	<b>Hernandez</b>	Todd	NSCC	President		<b>Wesche</b>	Paige	Defiance County ED	Assistant Executive Director
	<b>Hoops</b>	James	Ohio House District 81	Representative		<b>Wilhelm</b>	Ben	Edgerton	Superintendent
	<b>Hug</b>	Tod	NWOCA	Executive Director	X	<b>Willitzer</b>	Erika	Defiance County ED	Executive Director
	<b>Huiskens</b>	Katie	Fulton County ED	Ops & Strategic Initiatives	X	<b>Ziegler</b>	Kylie	Henry County CIC	Administrative Assistant
X	<b>Hunter</b>	Andrew	NwoESC/STEAM	Director/Co- Chair					
X	<b>Johnson</b>	Nate	Stryker	Superintendent					

Other Guests:

Steven Alspaugh, Bryan	Randy Gardner	Troy Merillat, NWOESC
Brian Arnold, Bryan	Deborah Gerken, NWOESC	Beth Morr, Stryker
Brian Baker, NWOESC	Emily Gerken, NWOESC	Ryan O’Dell, Wauseon
Lisa Becher, SBDC	Laura Gerken, Swanton	Stacey Parrish, NWOESC
Keith Birkhold, East	Jill Gilliland, NWOESC	Jose Salinas, OMEC
Alissa Brown, NWOESC	Laura Inkrott, Napoleon	Olivia Selgo, NWOESC
Eric Brown, WEDCO/Sauder Manufacturing	Katie Jimenez, Liberty Center	Christine Siebeneck, Napoleon
Karyn Cox, Bryan	Paige Johnson, Defiance CIC	Jennifer Stantz, WEDCO
Troy Cummins, West Unity	Dorothy Lambert, NWOESC	Cheryl Swisher, Defiance
Abby Dewar, ODEW	Dave Lersch, Miller Brothers Construction	Theresa Vietmier, Wauseon
Stacy Elchinger, NWOESC	Jason Mansfield, Millcreek-West Unity	Dan Waldron, Kamco
Doug Ford, Pike Delta York	Hannah Martin, Ayersville	Lynn Wieland, Bryan
Jessica Fredrick, NWOESC	Anthony Menna, Swanton	Larry Zimmerman, Wauseon

*\*denotes item for membership vote*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (sign in); Introductions
  - a. Guests: In addition to our regular membership, we had business leaders, community partners, interested stakeholders, ESC and district CFO/Treasurers, and ESC and districts administrators in attendance representing Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties.
3. \*NwoESC BAC Meeting Minutes Review and Approval
  - a. A motion to approve the minutes of the NwoESC Business Advisory Council meeting held on September 17, 2024 was made by Nate Johnson and second by Steve Arnold. Motion passed.
4. BAC Overview – Mrs. Kerri Weir reviewed the mission, vision, and key initiatives of the Northwest Ohio BAC.
5. Miller Brothers Follow up – Mr. Mike Remer and Mr. Dave Lersch discussed the two barriers currently faced at Miller Brothers when trying to hire employees: recruitment and retention. Forty-one percent of the skilled trades workforce will be retiring. There is a need to overcome the stigmas associated with the skilled trades.
6. Tabletop Discussion Activity – Mr. Andy Hunter directed each table to have a discussion based on a question posted on their table.
7. Introduction of Director Stephen D. Dackin - Ohio Department of Education and Workforce – Mrs. Kerri Weir
8. Director Dackin’s vision for K-12 public education in Ohio and bridging the gap between the business and education sectors – Director Dackin’s vision emphasized a more integrated approach to education and workforce development, ensuring that students graduate with a clear, actionable path forward. By strengthening career readiness, expanding technical education, addressing absenteeism, and reducing barriers to employment, Ohio aims to better prepare students for future success while meeting the state’s workforce needs.

- a. Key points included the following:
  - Students need to explore and have experiences in school to know which way to go in the future: college or workforce.
  - Forty percent of third graders are not reading at grade level. This is reason there is now a state mandate for Science of Reading.
  - The workforce should be integrated into education.
  - ODEW is now surveying students not enrolled in college about what they learned about careers in High School. The answers received were about college and military choices. The workforce component was completely missed.
  - Baby boomers are aging out, and the new generation is smaller.
  - Sixty-nine percent of 136,000 students do not have college degrees. There needs to be an initiative to match them with good entry-level jobs.
  - The Governor’s strategy is that every student should be on a pathway to something whether that be college, military, or the workforce.
  - According to CNBC, Ohio is the 7<sup>th</sup> best place to do business. The number one concern is workforce development and the second is a lack of workforce skills.
  - The schools should follow-up on the students’ excitement after learning about the workforce.
  - Honda has a two-year internship which is both good for the business and the interns. The business can see if they want to keep the intern as an employee, and the intern can decide if Honda is the right fit for them.
  - Students should leave high school with a career plan. Parents also need to be educated on the choices.
  - Earn and learn partnerships could be developed.
  - Career tech education should be given to all students. With declining enrollment throughout the state, high schools should have space to offer career tech education.
  - ODEW is seeing spikes in absenteeism: high school students do not see the purpose in attending school and Kindergarten and first grade parents do not think it is important.
  - Instead of homerooms, schools should offer an advisory period that would help create relationships between the staff and students.
  - The 3 R’s are the key to success:
    - Rigor – High expectations
    - Relevance – How and why does it matter to the student
    - Relationships – Knowing others care and have interest
  - Driver’s license costs are causing a barrier to entry in the workforce. ODEW is working on a recommendation for the next budget to help remedy this.

9. There were no Member Updates following Director Dackin’s keynote.

10. Next Meeting:

- a. Tuesday, March 11, 2025 – Montpelier Exempted Village Schools – more details will be forthcoming.

11. \*Adjourn: A motion to adjourn the meeting of the NwoESC Business Advisory Council was made by Troy Armstrong and second by Mark Rairigh. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.