



## NwOESC Business Advisory Council

### Annual Report March 1, 2019

The following District Boards of Education and the Northwest Ohio ESC agree that the NwOESC's Business Advisory Council shall represent the business of the school districts consistent with the authority granted by the Ohio General Assembly. This agreement is in effect until the Board(s) or ESC terminates the same by formal resolution.

<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>COUNTY</b>
Archbold-Area Local	Fulton
Ayersville Local	Defiance
Bryan City	Williams
Central Local	Defiance
Defiance City	Defiance
Edgerton Local	Williams
Edon Northwest Local	Williams
Evergreen Local	Fulton
Fayette Local	Fulton
Hicksville Exempted Village	Defiance
Holgate Local	Henry
Millcreek-West Unity Local	Williams
Montpelier Exempted Village	Williams
Napoleon Area City	Henry
North Central Local	Williams
Northeastern Local	Defiance
Patrick Henry Local	Henry
Pettisville Local	Fulton
Pike-Delta-York Local	Fulton
Stryker Local	Williams
Swanton Local	Fulton
Wauseon Exempted Village	Fulton

## **BAC Meetings**

The BAC shall meet Quarterly at the NwOESC. These meetings shall occur prior to the NwOESC Superintendents meetings in September, December, March, and June.

Meetings to date:

- September 4, 2018            NwOESC BAC
- December 4, 2018        NwOESC BAC
- February 20, 2019        BAC Priorities Workgroup

### **1. The council's plan and implementation progress –**

- a. Council formed, developed guidelines for operation, and set a mission and vision:
  - i. NwOESC BAC Vision: A well-prepared workforce that contributes to the economic growth and development and improved quality of life throughout the Northwest Ohio region.
  - ii. NwOESC BAC Mission: The mission of the Northwest Ohio BAC is to bring together on a regional level key stakeholders in business and education to advise, support and enhance the awareness, instruction and experiences students are provided in striving to gain relevant, in-demand job skills as part of their preparation for future career success.
- b. The Council is in process of identifying priorities and action planning.
- c. The Council meetings are used to spotlight area businesses, to share information among stakeholders, and to discuss issues and opportunities relevant to the group
  - i. September – STEAM Coalition updates
  - ii. December – Worthington Industries presentation

### **2. Brief summaries of specific activities the council conducted:**

- a. Member Survey conducted 11/27/18 to determine Council Priorities for 2018/19 and 2019/20 school years:
  - i. PRIORITY #1 - Fostering collaboration beyond the Council, among business, labor and education personnel.
  - ii. PRIORITY #2 - Publicizing and communicating local economy and job information, including activities designed to inform students, educators and the community about changes to the local economy and which jobs will be most in demand.
- b. Development of Priorities Workgroup to assist in determining Action Steps
  - i. In process

### **3. The nature of the council's advice and recommendations, if any, on needed employment skills and curriculum development to instill those skills –**

- a. Focus on the development of basic employment skills/soft skills – attendance, coworker interactions, basic problem solving, organization, etc. Consider an effort to develop lesson plans for use as instructional resources to area teachers to address common skills/issues.

- b. Drug free – start young to combat this problem. Resources are needed to be effective in this endeavor.
- c. The Local Report Card is complicated and negatively reflects Ohio’s education system to prospective business and transplants. From a business perspective, the Ohio School Report Cards are not looked on favorably for attracting new businesses and keeping current ones as they can have a negative effect on employees’/potential employees’ perception of the area communities. The flaw is in the Report Card design, as our schools are strong. As an example, the “Prepared for Success” measure in the Local Report Card is not realistic and reflects negatively on districts who are successfully preparing students beyond graduation. It was recommended this measure be redesigned or eliminated. Consider NwOESC BAC lobby for Report Card revisions to alleviate this concern.
- d. Graduation Requirements in Ohio are more complex than necessary, and heavily rely on passage of high stakes assessments, discrediting those students able to show competence in other ways. The Council expressed that extending the pathways and options available to the class of 2018 to this current year 2019 would be advantageous for schools, students and businesses. It was noted the state should continue with discussions on additional ways students can show competence for graduation including industry certificates and/or credentials.

**4. The nature of the council’s advice and recommendations, if any, on economic and job market changes and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available -**

- a. Manufacturing is a huge industry sector in NW Ohio. Parents and students need information on how this sector has evolved over time, with many employment opportunities for skilled and high paying positions. Parents need to see and experience the vocational school and business/industry settings to better understand what they offer. There is a continual struggle to bridge the gap between career, college, and workplace.
- b. Consideration should be given to conducting a study regarding the in demand/in supply job market and the mismatch of the labor pool in the four county area.
- c. Continue to build upon and further develop STEAM activities and initiatives across the four county area at all levels P-16.

**5. The nature of the council’s advice and suggestions, if any, for developing working relationships among businesses, labor organizations and educational personnel -**

- a. Consider establishing a Business/Education Liaison (Career Coaching) in every county to prioritize the connections between education and business & industry. This position would work to ensure students are aware of regional opportunities and businesses and education are better aligned to meet area needs. Funding is needed for this type of support and should not be the sole responsibility of K-12 education. The Priorities Workgroup is in the initial stages of determining next steps and pulling in area legislators for feedback/support.
- b. Use the NwOESC BAC meetings as an opportunity to share successful strategies, network and learn from one another, and build understanding and respect for the challenges faced by education and business/industry in Ohio.