



## **MINUTES OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE: Friday, September 14, 2018

TIME: 12:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Ashtabula County Educational Service Center,  
2630 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dr. Jerome R. Brockway, Superintendent Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus  
Richard L. Jackson, Executive Vice President, Operations ASHTA Chemicals, Inc.,  
Ms. Laura Jones, Executive Director, Leadership Ashtabula County  
Christina Ray, Human Resources Director, Ashtabula County ESC  
Mr. John Rubesich, Superintendent Ashtabula County ESC  
Mike Sass, Director of Human Resources, Community Care Ambulance  
Mr. Craig Sernik, Executive Director Area 19 NOC COG  
Sharon Shoneman, ACESC Board Member  
Dr. Sue Stocker, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, Kent State University at Ashtabula  
Ms. Wendy Zele, Manager, External Affairs, FirstEnergy Corp.

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Dan Brubecker, Worthington Cylinders  
Mr. Mike Candela, Superintendent Pymatuning Valley Local Schools  
Mr. Greg Myers, Executive Director, Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County  
John Ringer, President, Ringer Screen Print, Inc.  
Leonard Stepp, Senior Vice President, Administration, APMC Healthcare System

GUESTS: NONE

### **ITEMS DISCUSSED**

1. Mr. John Rubesich,
  - Mr. Rubesich opened the meeting. He reviewed the items provided in the packet.
  - He conducted introductions of members
  - Craig Sernik and John Rubesich will serve as co-chairs
  - Mr. Rubesich reviewed the requirements for the Business Advisory Committee, the law, the purpose and other information that led to establishing this committee.

2. Members Comments with regard to serving on the Business Advisory Committee (BAC)
  - Several members serve multiple boards that are related to the purpose and goals of the BAC, such as the Workforce Development Board (WFD).
  - The BAC seems like a nice fit and a piece that is missing from our county
  - Several members feel they can bring a lot of information and resources to the table and expressed an interest with being involved and serving.
  
3. Mr. Craig Sernik:
  - Mr. Sernik indicated that five of the six business members on the WFD Board agreed to serve on the BAC.
  - Mr. Sernik sees this board as an extension of what the WFD board currently does.
  - Mr. Sernik is involved in the BAC's in Geauga Counties as well.
  - Mr. Sernik indicated they have activities that would meet the goal of the BAC, such as job fairs
  - He suggested before the next meeting we conduct an inventory of what activities, programs and or events are already being done.
  - He felt the focus would be to learn and determine what do we need to do expand
  - Mr. Sernik is excited to be a part of this team and is willing to do whatever is needed to collaborate
  - Mr. Sernik is developing a Gap Analysis for our county from data collected by NEO. The report is largely based on differences between education and employment NEO Northeast Ohio. He will make that report available to this group and we can use the information to help determine our plan.
  
4. Mr. John Rubesich,
  - Mr. Rubesich provided information with regard to our Happy Hearts and Building Bridges program. He indicated we will tour our building after the meeting. He also spoke about the levy the school districts will need to have on the fall ballot to help serve our special needs population.
  - Mr. Rubesich reviewed the proposed By Laws. After discussion on the By Laws, a motion was moved by Dr. Brockway to approve and Craig Sernik seconded. All in favor.
  - Mr. Rubesich reviewed the proposed Plan. A motion to approve the plan was made by Craig Sernik and Wendy Zele seconded. All in favor.
  - Mr. Rubesich indicated we will post the By Laws and the Plan on our website
  
5. Round Table Discussion:
  - A question was asked if all Superintendents would be willing to attend meetings. Mr. Rubesich said we could develop topics relevant to that type of meeting and possibly have other groups attend meetings as well based on what we would like to accomplish for that meeting.
  - What are the next steps? Now that we have this planning completed, the next meeting we can focus on data and information gathered with what activities, programs and events are already occurring. We will also review the report that Mr. Sernik will provide as well.
  - An email will be sent to request all of the members to conduct an inventory of what we are already doing now for next month.

Round Table Discussion Continued:

- A goal a member would like to see if we can accomplish is a way to find out where people go after they graduate high school. Some discussion ensued.
- Selling and promoting the values of our area
- Additional members were suggested:
  - College ACCESS
  - Junior Achievement
  - Ashtabula County Department of Job & Family Services: Patrick Arcaro
  - Agriculture (Thompson Brothers)
  - South County Businesses (Sealy Medical, Kraftmade, Kennemetal)

6. Mr. Rubesich led the members on a tour of the Ashtabula County Educational Service Center

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- \*ODE information on Business Advisory
- \*Business Advisory By-Laws
- \*Business Advisory Plan
- \*Business Advisory Member List
- \*Ideas/suggestion list from ODE

**Next Meeting:**

The next Meeting will be held on November 30, 2018.

**Additional Meetings:**

February 15, 2019

May 17, 2019