

Twinsburg City School District
Business Advisory Council (BAC) Meeting
Tuesday, November 29, 2022
TWO Cafe and Boutique, 8578 E Washington St., Chagrin Falls ~ 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Rob Felber (TCSD BOE), Kathi Powers (TCSD), Brian Linn (Twinsburg High School Principal), Alex Popovich (Curriculum Supervisor), Belinda McKinney (Director of Human Resources TCSD), Matt Strickland (Business Manager TCSD), Todd Courtney (Crown Composites), Melissa Mertes (Mad About Marketing), Jennifer Goings-Smith (Eaton Corp. Retiree), Michelle Willmott (VMS), Matt Cellura (M&G Pools), Ameeca Holmes (ConXus NEO)

Meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m.

Minutes from the September 27, 2022 meeting were approved with the addition of Michelle Willmott to those in attendance.

Welcome – Kathi Powers:

Update from the Board Members – Rob Felber:

- Thanks for your support of the 6.9 mill renewal levy.
- District finances are still a concern.
- The Board of Education is considering a possible new money issue. Also, considerations need to be made for a bond issue to replace George G. Dodge Intermediate School.

Updates – Kathi Powers:

- Introduction of new BAC member, Ameeca Holmes from ConXus NEO.
- A Wellness Forum is being planned for January 2023 – Mental Health, Cybersecurity, Nutrition, etc.
- Kathi offered to send her weekly Blackboard Connect newsletter to residents who do not have students in our District. BAC members were asked to spread the word and send Kathi email addresses so she can continue to build the community listserv.

Update Regarding Career Readiness Curriculum – Alex Popovich:

- Introduced Shari Hunter from the TWO Cafe and Boutique.
- Their program includes students from Kenston, Aurora, Chagrin Falls and Twinsburg.
- Team of educators and business people.
- Six (6) high school students work Tuesdays and Thursdays. They receive job readiness curriculum and then apply real-life skills. Takes nine months to develop great workplace habits.
- Assess interests and strengths. Develop workplace habits.
- The staff helps students get matched with jobs after high school graduation.
- Making candles as they learn marketing, manufacturing and merchandising. Proceeds to benefit their holiday party.

- Customer service skills are important. Biggest goal is to approach someone with confidence.
- The TWO Foundation was founded in 2013 with the goal to create a bridge between families and individuals and the world of business.
- Students work at the Cafe for 8 months. The Cafe is OOD and DD certified.
- The TWO Cafe also supports adults.
- 200 individuals have been helped through this program with 70 companies employing “graduates” from this program. Finding the right match is very important.
- Forcing a shift in society
 - Names, not labels
 - Excellence in all that we do
 - Focus on strengths, not on weaknesses
 - We do life so much better together
- Cafe and Boutique is open Tuesdays thru Saturdays 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and serves breakfast and lunch.
- Students rotate through different tasks.

Job Fair – Alex Popovich:

- A Job Fair will be held at Twinsburg High School in the Gymnasium on March 14th from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
- 8th graders will be allowed to attend.
- Toni Cluse, Career Consultant from CVCC is assisting.
- Two separate flyers will be created - one for businesses and one for students/parents.

Connections Course Update – Alex Popovich:

- Alex met with each student participating in the Connections program prior to Thanksgiving Break.
- He shared some of the experiences our students have had thus far.
- Thank you to Melissa Mertes who connected Alex with Swagelok in Solon. Alex is working to identify a few students from the *Connections* course to connect with Swagelok. These would not be internships but workplace training – \$15.80/hr. High school students are Swagelok’s #1 retention group.
- Development of Career Curriculum is underway.
- This work is part of this year’s Strategic Plan Action Steps under 21st Century Teaching & Learning goals.
- Brief discussion of getting more information distributed about the *Connections* course and opportunities for students.

❖ Next meeting Date/Time: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Meeting Minutes approved on January 31, 2023