

MINUTES OF THE ASHTABULA COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, March 19, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.
Ashtabula County Educational Service Center Via ZOOM

Members Present:

Mr. Patrick Arcaro, Executive Director, Ashtabula County Department of Job and Family Services
Mr. Mike Candela, Superintendent, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center
Ms. Beth Dougherty, Human Resource Generalist, INEOS Pigments USA
Ms. Hattie Grubke-Barnard, Workforce Development Administrator, Ohio Means Jobs Ashtabula
Mr. Richard Jackson, Executive Vice President, Operations ASHTA Chemicals, Inc.
Ms. Kelli Jones, Executive Director, Leadership Ashtabula County
Mr. Greg Myers, Executive Director, Growth Partnership of Ashtabula County
Dr. William Nye, Superintendent, Grand Valley Local School District
Ms. Christina Ray, Human Resources Director, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center
Mr. Mike Sass, Director of Human Resources, Community Care Ambulance
Mr. Craig Sernik, Executive Director, Area 19 NOC COG
Dr. Sue Stocker, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer, Kent State University at Ashtabula
Mr. Scott Wludya, Superintendent, Ashtabula County Technical and Career Campus

Members Absent:

Mr. Jonathan Forbes, Director, Human Resources at Ashtabula County Medical Center
Mr. John Ringer, President, Ringer Screen Print, Inc.
Ms. Lisa Shank, Human Resources Manager, Lake City Plating
Mr. George Smith, Ashtabula County Educational Service Center Board Member
Ms. Wendy Zele, Manager of External Affairs, FirstEnergy Corporation
Mr. William Stoots, Operations Manager, Worthington Industries

Items Discussed:

1. Introductions
Each member introduced themselves.
2. Approve New Members
Beth Dougherty: INEOS Pigments
Jonathan Forbes, ACMC
Lisa Shank, Lake City Plating
William Stoots, Worthington Industries
 - Motion to accept new members by Mr. Sass, seconded by Mr. Arcaro. All in favor.
3. Review and Approve Minutes from January 20, 2020 Meeting
 - Motion by Mr. Candela, second by Dr. Nye. All in favor.

4. Review the Plan and Joint Statement Regarding Activities - Mr. Sernik
 - Motion to approve by Mr. Myers, second by Ms. Jones. All in favor.
5. School District Agency Activities - Mr. Scott Wludyga, Superintendent, Atech
 - Provided a presentation and overview of Atech's career education program and related activities being offered in our county.
 - New website: Connecting Careers to Academic. Features career videos from community members demonstrating on how different learned skills are used in their careers.
 - "Find Your Future in Ashtabula County Retreat" on October 1, 2021 at the Ashtabula County Fairgrounds for seventh graders focusing on manufacturing.
6. Updates and Other Open Discussion - Mr. Sernik
 - Premier virtual license identified by Area 19 NOC COG
 - Looking at making this software/tool available through the Ohio Means Jobs staff for any workforce development virtual activities. There will be a training on April 1, 2021. Ms. Grubke-Barnard will be the point person on this project will provide more information that can be shared.
 - Not sure yet if we can pull off a student Job Fair or not.
 - There will be some tech-cred funding available sometime soon through NOC COG - Ohio Means Jobs funds to assist with incumbent worker training through Atech and KSUAC. Mr. Sernik will send more information out on this opportunity.
 - Industry Credentials/Certifications - Mr. Wludyga indicated there will be a huge push by the state on students earning industry credentials upon graduation. Could be earned at Atech and or public schools. Some discussion on working on this type of credential/certification together as a group. There is information on the Ohio Tech Cred list of several certifications/credentials that are available.
 - Job Readiness Seal - We will address at our next meeting. There is a PowerPoint that will be shared with the information on the seal. There is also information on our shared drive for everyone to review what this seal looks like. We will also invite some others to conduct a presentation on this opportunity that we might adopt as a project for the Business Advisory Committee.
 - Mentorship through the Growth Partnership this year is virtual.
 - Growth Partnership is offering to develop a draft of a survey document that would help identify industry needs in our county. We would determine how to get this survey out to community. Mr. Sernik mentioned they have business outreach funds available to help offset costs available for this project. Ms. Jones said there are several database/survey databases available and volunteered to help with the formatting of the survey. The goal is to have something put together.
7. Upcoming Meeting Topics
 - Job Readiness Seal
 - Mentorship Follow-Up
 - OhioMeans Jobs Presentation
 - Additional Members to Reach Other Industries in Our County

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Arcaro. All in favor.

Attachments Available in Google folder:

- Plan
- Joint Statement
- Job Readiness Seal Information

Next Meeting Date

- Friday, May 21, 2021