



Board of Education and Business Advisory Council

Joint Statement on 2024

February 18, 2025

Meetings of the Business Advisory Council ("Council") were held on March 21, 2024, June 20, 2024, and September 19, 2024, and January 16, 2025. Meeting agendas are planned in partnership with Randy Drewyor, Treasurer, Tom Hosler, Superintendent, and Brook Price, Assistant Superintendent, all of whom attend each meeting. Also attending each meeting to provide important feedback and ideas with the Council are Justin Fults, Director of Student Services & Well-Being, and Susan Rowland Miller, Board President. Lastly, the implementation of action steps as they pertain to the Business Advisory Council Plan would not be possible without the direct work of Christine Albright, Coordinator for Careers & Community Service Liaison. Now in her third year in this role for Perrysburg Schools, Ms. Albright is pivotal to district programs for the development of student professional skills, student career education and exploration, and student networking and relationship building with industry and local community businesses.

Notable accomplishments as they pertain to the Business Advisory Council Plan include the following:

Update the Perrysburg Schools Business Advisory Council Plan. Required for annual submission to the Ohio Department of Education, this plan outlines action steps and responsible parties for the development of professional skills for future careers, building partnerships, and coordinating job experiences.

College & Career Lunch and Learn Sessions were offered during lunch at both the high school and the junior high school where students could learn about specific career paths and degree programs.

Career Fairs provided an opportunity for students to gain insight into career clusters that interest them. Students were able to make connections with adults who have jobs in careers they find interesting and also collected information about the education required to be successful in that particular field. They were also given the opportunity to make a connection between school programming choices and careers. Lastly, students were given the opportunity to practice professional skills such as communication and taking initiative.

Guest Classroom Speakers share their work experience to show students how their studies connect to various career fields. Inviting guest speakers into the classroom provides an opportunity to connect students with professionals and helps them build their network of resources.

To aid students in their career exploration and development to help them find that Next Step After Graduation, PHS continues to host Career Day each spring. During Career Day, PHS students are differentiated based on their career vantage point. Freshmen and sophomores explore career paths through breakout sessions facilitated by local professionals from various industries, while juniors participate in job shadowing experiences outside PHS.

Mock interview days are also conducted at PHS each academic year. Students from PHS's Career Prep Course participate in these Career Readiness events where students are paired one-on-one with a business partner who interviews each student as if he/she were being interviewed by an employer for a paid internship or job. The experience allows students to practice their interviewing skills and professional behaviors, while at the same time developing a level of comfort in communicating with professionals. A Mock Interview also offers the chance to demonstrate the connection between academic concepts being taught in school and how they are applied in the workplace.

Exploration of potential career paths and obtaining basic workplace skills is facilitated through high school internships. These longer-term experiences focus on experiential learning, allowing students to investigate

fields of study and career options. Several students from PHS were connected to informal internship opportunities.

Career Day at the Perrysburg Junior High School was run in conjunction with DECA students at PHS. The PJHS Career Day allows 7th and 8th grade students to explore career paths in breakout sessions facilitated by local professionals from various industries. The event itself is run as a business project by PHS students, thus PJHS Career Day serves a dual purpose providing real world project execution experience for the PHS students operating the event.

The Council continues to lift-up the importance of the wide-variety of pathways to in-demand and high-paid careers. Members represent multiple businesses where four-year university degrees are not necessarily required and, regardless of educational requirements, training takes place with the employer. As the Council seeks to provide feedback to district staff and administration on their career initiatives, we continue to encourage the district staff, students, and parents to see the many paths available to students as they become the workforce of our future.

The Council wishes to continue to support Perrysburg Schools students by expanding workplace readiness initiatives options. As representatives of the local business community, we are committed to ensuring partnerships that allow for new initiatives and opportunities for students. Recognizing the required budget reductions that will inevitably cause an increased workload for/and or reduction of staff that manage these programs, the Council remains ready to serve. With great interest from the community, we have expanded our membership and the business sectors we represent. In the face of district budget constraints, the Council is aware our schools are holding the future for our workforce. For our businesses to succeed, we must have schools that succeed. We understand the extreme consequences of not providing this support and give our firm resolve to stand against the obstacles enacted by those that lack understanding of the mutual destiny of school and business community success.

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