

# Chamber Education Committee / Business Advisory Council Minutes

September 24, 2024

Location Host: Ohio Gratings, Inc. 5299 Southway St. SW, Canton, OH 44706

Facilitators: Shaun Eller and Christine Taylor

## Attendance

Emil Alecusan	Rick Baxter	Bryan Boatright	JoAnn Breedlove	Craig Brown
Debbie Busby	Matt Cola	Joseph Chaddock	Jeff Dafler	Shaun Eller
Sharla Elton	Dave Fischer	Chris Goff	Benny Griffiths	Tamiko Hatcher
Mike Hearn	Gary Kandel	Rebecca Kuzma	Janelle Lee	Dan Lowmiller
Melissa Marconi	Brent May	Robert McBride	John Milan	Marci Muckleroy
Dan Murphy	Jim Reinhard	Matt Rodriguez	Christina Schnyders	Michelle Shaffer
Dan Swisher	Christine Taylor	Lisa Talbert	Rachel VanDyke	Brittney Wells
Michael Wheeler	Patrick Willoughby	Matt Ziders	*Alex Logan	Chris Campbell

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

Rick Baxter called the meeting to order at 12:01pm.

### 2. Approval of agenda and minutes

Rick Baxter asked for approval of today's meeting agenda and the minutes from the May monthly meeting. Matt Cola moved to approve the minutes, and Janelle Lee seconded, and the motion passed.

### 3. Ohio Gratings Welcome and Overview

Christine Taylor introduced Shaun Eller, Chief Business Officer of Ohio Gratings Inc (OGI) and board chairman of the Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership (SCMWDP), an industry sector partnership serving manufacturing employers in Stark County. Christine provided some background on industry sector partnerships in the manufacturing sector in Ohio. ,

Shaun Eller shared background on OGI's history, products, and operations, emphasizing the company's outreach to high schools and career tech centers as a pathway to recruiting and training workers. There are 50 current OGI associates who began in the student program in 2022. 40 students began working at OGI their senior year and of those, 26 became full-time associates.

Shaun also provided an overview of SCMWDP and the organization's efforts to address workforce challenges in Stark County's manufacturing sector. 550

manufacturing companies in the county employ more than 26,000 people who earn a median income of \$41,412. SCMWDP promotes a manufacturing-themed coloring contest for second-graders and held four junior-high manufacturing camps over the summer in partnership with TomTod Ideas. On Manufacturing Day, October 10<sup>th</sup>, SCMWDP is coordinating factory tours for 360 high school students at member facilities across the county.

#### **4. Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce Education Committee Goals & Metrics Alignment to ODEW Standards for Excellence for Business Advisory Councils**

Christine Taylor stated that Stark Education Partnership is finalizing agendas for future meetings and is working to reschedule the legislative meeting that postponed in August. In November, the committee will receive a brief update about current legislation and election results. In March, a legislative meeting will be held once Ohio General Assembly committee assignments are finalized and work is underway on a new state operating budget. Christine also mentioned that bringing more stakeholders into the conversation would be beneficial for the community.

The primary goal of the Business Advisory Council is to foster a more responsive education system that uses economic drivers to engage students and facilitate career-focused learning experiences, including work-based learning experiences and partnerships with employers, with three general quality practices: developing professional skills for future careers, engaging students, and coordinating experiences. The main problem employers report is that workforce employees come in without certain skills; for example, coming to work on time, a strong work ethic, basic math, basic tool usage, making eye contact, or phone skills. The implementation of an academic curriculum either by schools or organizations offering mentoring would be incorporated by participation.

ODEW is specific about the importance of data. So, finding out from our schools what credentials are being offered, how many of them are being obtained, and what schools are using OJ readiness, how they use it and feel about using it.

#### **5. Discussion: Aligning ODEW Standards with Canton Regional Chamber Education Committee's Goals & Metrics**

The room divided into The Educator group led by Dan Lowmiller and the Business Partner group led by Rick Baxter to discuss Teacher bootcamp and bus tours.

Dan Lowmiller stated that educators feel the teacher bootcamp would be starting on their first day off after the school year, and it should not necessarily be mandated to attend all three days of a teacher bootcamp. They should have an option for one, two or three days with credits given accordingly.

Rick Baxter and Christine Taylor relayed that the Business Partners feel educators should be learn about positions, titles, careers, salary, and job certifications so they will have that information as take-aways from the experience.

**6. Adjourn & Tour of Ohio Gratings 12:59PM**

Chris Goff moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe Chaddock seconded the motion. After adjournment meeting participants were offered a tour of OGI facilities.