

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL GENERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A meeting of the General Advisory Council of Bucks County Technical High School was held on Friday, January 12, 2018 10:00am in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Nathan Cooper, Komfort Heat
Brian Cummings, PA CareerLink Bucks County
Garney Morris, Electrician/Business Owner (Retired)
Ed Needham, *Sheet Metal Workers, Local #19 (Retired)*
George Sabo, IV, Senior Manager, RSM

Bucks County Technical High School

Hank DeGeorge, Assistant Director
Ron Martino, School-to-Career Coordinator
Leon Poeske, Administrative Director
Suzie Sabo, Grant Writer

The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris welcomed new member, George Sabo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Cummings, that the minutes of the November 3, 2017 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

SCHOOL UPDATE

Dr. Poeske reported that our HVAC program has again received the HVAC Excellence Accreditation.

SKILLS USA

Dr. Poeske reported that the district competitions will be held the end of January into the beginning of February at various local technical schools. Nationals will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

339/APE REVIEW

Mr. DeGeorge reported that we passed the 339 audit of our technical programs, which is mandated by PDE. There were only 2 corrections, one was the outdated saws in the Building Trades class and the other was that there were no safety guards on the saw in Cabinetmaking. The saws have been removed. Thankfully, the next 339 review will not be until 2022. BCTHS was commended for running an excellent school.

Dr. Poeske reported that the Electrical Apprentice Program is up and running.

General Advisory Council Recap

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RENOVATIONS UPDATE

A copy of the Capital Improvement Project summary and a Summary of the Articles of Agreement Proposals were distributed. Dr. Poeske mentioned that an Ad-Hoc committee has been formed to review the Articles of Agreement and that the districts are interested in changing the number of representatives to the board from 3 to 2 in Bensalem, Bristol Township, Neshaminy and Pennsbury; and from 1 to 2 in Bristol Borough and Morrisville. We must have a unanimous vote from the districts in order for the capital improvement project to continue.

LABOR MARKET UPDATE

Mr. Cummings distributed a copy of the Occupation Snapshot Report highlighting the need for Carpenters in Bucks County

He mentioned that Career Link supplies a telephone for people to use to apply for unemployment, however, after waiting in long lines, only 30-35 applicants per day are able to connect with someone who can help them.

WORK BASED EDUCATION UPDATE

Mr. Martino announced that 92 students are currently on co-op. He mentioned that he, Mr. Hansell and many teachers and students gave presentations about BCTHS to the middle schools within our six districts. Our presentations to 700+ students went extremely well and many students who didn't know what BCTHS has to offer are now interested in attending.

GRANT UPDATES

Mrs. Sabo reported on the various grants she is working on and mentioned that she recently submitted a grant for \$100,000 earmarked for Cabinetmaking. She stated that many technical areas are in need of equipment; welding needs a plasma cutter which costs in the range of \$24,000; Machine Technology is looking for a High-Performance Linear Motor Drive Wire-Cut EDM at a cost of approximately \$120,000.

She also reported on the following:

The Farm-to-Table/Farm-to-School program is going well; we have formed a positive relationship with Jonathan and Melanie Snipes.

She has taken the lead in the development of an alumni association.

We will be hosting the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development Class in the Board Room on January 16th.

The next General Advisory Council meeting will be held on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 10am.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:18am.

Submitted by:

Karen Needham