

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL GENERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A meeting of the General Advisory Council of Bucks County Technical High School was held on Friday, April 13, 2018 at 10:00am in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Nathan Cooper, President, Komfort Heat
Brian Cummings, Director, PA CareerLink Bucks County
Mike Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd.
Dawn Griffin, Parts & Service Director, McCafferty Auto Group
Kelly Kelleway, Associate Provost, Bucks County Community College
Garney Morris, Electrician/Business Owner (Retired)
Ed Needham, Sheet Metal Workers, Local #19 (Retired)
George Sabo, IV, Senior Manager, RSM
Kevin Troy, Technical Instructor, SEPTA Training & Tech Support (STATS)
George Williams, Service Production Manager, McCafferty Auto Group

Bucks County Technical High School

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:07am by Mr. Morris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gecht, seconded by Mr. Needham, that the minutes of the January 12, 2018 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

SCHOOL UPDATE

- NOCTI testing will be May 8th for the theory portion and May 9th for the “hands-on” portion of the test.
- Literature, Algebra & Biology Keystone tests will be given May 1st through May 17th.

501c3 FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- In September 2017, the current FEE Board voted to close the foundation. Dr. Poeske reported that ten new members have expressed interest in serving on the FEE Board of Directors.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT UPDATE

- Dr. Poeske gave an update on the bond issue. Since BCTHS has not been able to get our six school districts to agree as to who pays what of their portion of the debt, there will be no bond and we will not be borrowing money to attend to the much needed renovations and repairs to our school. Dr. Poeske mentioned that the next meeting of the Joint Board Committee will be held on Monday, April 23, 2018. He hopes to have the Articles of Agreement approved by the May meeting – June at the latest. An Ad Hoc committee meeting will be held on April 23, 2018 at 5:30pm in the board room. Dr. Poeske mentioned that this Ad Hoc committee has been formed to review the Articles of Agreement.

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STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

- Dr. Poeske reported that we have met with JoAnn Perotti, BCIU Director of Strategic Services to update our Strategic Plan. We will focus on three areas; 1) Improve Student Achievement; 2) Improve/Increase Support Services; and 3) Improve Operations. Administrative chairs have been decided and we are in the process of securing committee members.

LABOR MARKET UPDATE

- Mr. Cummings distributed a copy of the Economy Overview for Bucks County. He noted that 37% of the population in Bucks County has earned a Bachelors' degree which is higher than the national average. Mr. Cummings reported that retirement numbers are very high in Bucks County, which is the fourth largest population in the State. The national average for an area this size is 95,000, of people 65 or older, while there are 110,000 in Bucks County.

WORK- BASED EDUCATION

- School-to-Career Coordinator, Mr. Martino reported that 95 students are currently in co-op positions and 26 students are in internships. He has 54 jobs that are posted that he cannot fill. He mentioned that one of the reasons he can't fill positions is that students don't always have their own transportation and are unable to secure transportation.
- Mr. Martino reported that School-to-Career Coordinator, Mr. Hansell organized a staff active shooter drill during the March 2018 in-service. Students will be provided training for armed intruder incidents during their Physical Education classes in May to prepare for a school-wide drill for staff and students.
- Mr. Martino thanked Mr. Gecht and Mr. Cooper for speaking to our students about PA Free Enterprise Week (PFEW) which is a program that offers high school students an opportunity to see what it is like to run their own business. With their help, six students will be participating this year which is triple what we had last year.
- On April 11th, Mr. Martino reported that representatives from Colonial Nissan, Peruzzi GMC, Faulkner Mazda, Faulkner Toyota, Reedman Toll, McCafferty Ford and Fred Beans Ford to discuss the AYES automotive program to pair students with mentors at the local dealerships.

GRANT UPDATES

- Mrs. Sabo reported that BCTHS received the following grants:
 1. \$7,000 to develop an on-site vegetable and herb garden which will provide food for Culinary Arts.
 2. \$119,000 to hire approximately 20 students to perform career work in HVAC, Construction, Landscaping, I.T. and Renewable Energy.

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- Mrs. Sabo also reported on areas of need:
 1. Cosmetology: The purchase of ReadSpeak which will be permanently implemented into the curriculum for all students to use.
 2. New equipment for Machine Technology.
Cafeteria: Large refrigerated glass display and new pots & pans. In addition, our current range, which is used for soups and stews, is the original range purchased when BCTHS was built. Needless-to-say a new range is needed.
 3. School Security: Ms. Sabo stated that she met with Principal, Mr. Azar, about hiring hall monitors when the security team breaks for lunch or when they are involved in a discipline matter.
 4. A panic button would be a huge benefit.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Poeske reported that 67 students will be participating in the Pennsylvania SkillsUSA competition in Hershey April 18-20, 2018.

The next meeting of the General Advisory Council will be held on Friday, September 14, 2018 at 10am.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Submitted by:

Karen Needham