

BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL GENERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A meeting of the General Advisory Council of Bucks County Technical High School was held on Friday, May 20, 2016 in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Mike Gecht, Travel Ease, Ltd.
Catherine McElroy, Bucks County Community College
Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.
Ed Needham, Sheet Metal Workers, Local #19 (Retired)
Robert Schuck, Sheet Metal Workers, Local #19
Kevin Troy, SEPTA
Liz Walsh, Bucks County Workforce Development Board
Nathaniel Cooper, President of Komfort Heat (new)

Bucks County Technical High School

Walter Hansell, School-to-Career Coordinator
Kevin Ody, Workforce Development & Community Relations Coordinator
Leon Poeske, Administrative Director

The meeting was called to order at 8:36AM by Mr. Troy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gecht, seconded by Ms. McElroy, that the minutes of the February 12, 2016 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved.

NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Mr. Morris welcomed new member, Mr. Nathaniel Cooper, President of Komfort Heat; self-introductions followed.

SPRING UPDATE

Dr. Poeske announced the following:

- Various community service projects are taking place. BCTHS students are working on a sustainable gardening project with Pennsbury Manor, and building pews for an historical church. These pews will be built to the period of when the church was built. Summer projects include building a shed for the Lower Bucks Family YMCA, and a project with St. Mary Medical Center.
- The curriculum for our new program, "Child Development and Educational Learning", has been submitted to PDE. First round interviews will begin the week of May 23, 2016, with the hope of taking a motion to the Joint Board on June 27, 2016, to hire a teacher.
- Dr. Poeske is optimistic that the 2016-17 budget will be passed by our six participating districts.
- Senior Awards Night will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 6pm in the auditorium.
- Graduation will be held on Tuesday, June 14th at the Sun Bank Arena at 6:30pm.

General Advisory Recap

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Ody reported the following:

- Manufacturing looking to create regional machine apprenticeships.
- Adult Education programs are winding down and his office is gearing up for our summer exploratory program which will run from July 11 to July 28. Copies of the summer exploratory brochure were distributed.
- Currently working on the fall adult education brochure.
- Copies of the 2015-2016 adult education participation report were distributed.
- Mr. Ody thanked Mr. Troy for his help with teaching specialty classes as well as the BCTHS automotive technology class. In turn, Mr. Troy thanked BCTHS automotive technology day teacher, Mr. Byron Cesari, for working with him in a collaborative effort, which enables him to do his job better.

Mr. Gecht discussed our "Beyond the Books" program.

Dr. Poeske introduced our Principal, Mr. Joseph Fullerton to the Council. Mr. Fullerton has been Principal at BCTHS since 2015.

BUCKS COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD UPDATE

Ms. Walsh discussed the following:

- Announced that the WDB received their funding allocation; overall, 5% has been cut from their budget.
- Discussed a business education grant with Montgomery County.
- The Department of Human Services has released additional funding.
- Currently working on the American Apprentice Grant.
- Working on industry partnerships.
- High Priority Occupations were discussed. Currently, Landscaping/Floral Design, Cosmetology and Civil Engineering Technology are on the HPO list.
- Working to change High Priority Occupations to Priority Occupations.

WORK-BASED EDUCATION

Mr. Hansell reported the following:

- 124 students have been placed in co-op positions; 54 students are on internships.
- An active shooter drill was held on February 16, 2016 for staff. Another will be held in the fall.
- The senior trip to Florida will be held from May 31 to June 4; Mr. Martino will be one of the chaperones.
- SEPTA is no longer working with current students, however, they will interview graduating seniors for positions.
- 19 BCTHS students will be attending the Promoted Free Enterprise Week. Mr. Hansell thanked Mr. Gecht for presenting to our students on February 17th during PFEW week.
- BCTHS landscaping/floral design teacher, Mr. Jim Long, will be working this summer with approximately 13 BCTHS students performing various maintenance tasks on the BCTHS grounds.
- Mr. Hansell and Mr. Martino conduct the annual senior survey as well as mailing out the post-graduate survey three times a year in order to meet PDE requirements.
- Dr. Poeske congratulated Mr. Hansell and Mr. Martino on doing a great job placing our students.

FACILITY UPGRADES

- Dr. Poeske stated that our six participating districts will be approached about refinancing for capital improvements over the next 15 years.

GRANTS

- Dr. Poeske reported that BCTHS has received two equipment grants this year.
- Dr. Poeske announced that the Joint Board Committee at BCTHS has approved the hiring of a part-time grant writer.

Mr. Needham mentioned the many success stories in the community of BCTHS alumni. He suggested that we mention a success story in our monthly newsletter. Mr. Ody stated that he recently met with representatives from Conwell-Egan about their successful alumni association and they generously gave him many suggestions to help us build our own alumni association.

Mr. Gecht discussed apprenticeships for teachers.

Mr. Cooper announced that he is a member of the Feasterville Rotary which gave a scholarship to a BCTHS student this year.

NEXT MEETING DATES

Friday, October 21, 2016 at 8:30am

Friday, January 20, 2017 at 8:30am

Friday, April 21, 2017 at 8:30am

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:12AM.

Submitted by:

Karen Needham