

Bucks County Technical High School
GENERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A meeting of the General Advisory Council of Bucks County Technical High School was held on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 10:00am in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Brian Cummings, Director, PA CareerLink Bucks County
Mike Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd.
Dawn Griffin, Parts and Svc. Director, Fred Beans Auto Group
Kelly Kelleway, Associate Provost, Bucks County Community College
Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.
George Sabo, IV, Senior Manager, RSM US
Kevin Troy, Technical Instructor, SEPTA Training & Tech Support (STATS)

Bucks County Technical High School:

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Mr. Garney Morris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the January 11, 2019 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Program Updates

Mr. DeGeorge reported that there will be a new Technical Class offering for 2019-20, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development. The curriculum is being prepared and the students planning to attend this class will be visiting a similar working program at Berks Career and Technical Center. This new program will be housed in the former Marketing classroom area.

Mr. DeGeorge reported on the two In-Service programs held in March: Technical teachers attended a program dealing with gender equity in the various Technical class offerings; the Academic teachers had a presentation on Team Teaching.

Mr. DeGeorge let the group know that the BCTHS Comprehensive Plan has been completed and approved by PDE.

NOCTI/Keystone Assessments

Mr. DeGeorge reported that NOCTI testing will be given in April next school year and that Keystone testing will be handled differently. Keystone tests will be administered in January for those needing re-testing in the areas of Algebra and Literature; testing for first-time test takers in Algebra, Biology and Literature will be administered in the Spring. All assessments are being given on-line beginning this year.

OAC

Mr. DeGeorge reported that there were over 250 OAC members in attendance at the October OAC meetings. All Technical areas met their quota and conducted productive meetings. Spring OAC meetings will be held after NOCTI testing in May. These Spring meetings focus on curriculum, program of study and industry certifications.

Summer Projects

Dr. Poeske provided information on Summer Projects:

The pond that has been constructed behind the school and planned to be used by the Environmental Studies students will be maintained and improved over the summer.

The Learning Center for sustainable energy will also be a source of learning and updating over the summer.

There will be renovations done to the former Marketing classroom area to house the new Entrepreneurship program. Plans are to hire students to work on this project.

There will be a project in the works this summer to renumber all the rooms in the building. Machine Tech teacher, Mr. Raybold, will begin the project this summer and plans will be made to finish the project next summer.

BCTHS will be getting a new website this summer.

Labor Market Update

Mr. Cummings provided the members with Labor Market Data handouts for HVAC and Civil Engineering in the Bucks County Area. The reports were very informative as to the need for employees in the Bucks County Area.

Mr. Cummings discussed the subject of new training for those displaced in the retail industry and all that PA Career Link has to offer them.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Poeske reported there are currently 400+ freshman enrolled for the 2019-20 school year. All the districts allotments have been filled except for the Neshaminy School District.

School to Career

Mr. Hansell discussed the co-op opportunities for Automotive Technology students. He has found inequity in the various dealerships willing to hire students as far as salary. He discussed the need for more mentoring opportunities for these students.

School to Career (cont'd)

The co-op opportunities for Creative Arts students are not as plentiful as in the other Technical areas.

There are currently 123 students on co-op and 37 students on internships.

Mr. Martino took 6 students to SEPTA headquarters in Philadelphia for pre-employment testing. The testing proved to be very challenging but was a good experience for the students.

Mr. Mike Gecht gave a presentation to the Business Management class on April 9th regarding the PFEW program. As of this date, seven students have submitted applications to attend.

EMS 11th grade students completed EMT testing on March 22nd. The majority passed with a few having to re-test in one or two areas.

Carpentry students completed dugouts for the Fairless Hills Athletic Assoc.

Mr. Martino is taking the Carpentry students to tour the National Guard campus in Horsham on April 16th

CRISIS

Mr. Hansell reported on the new software BCTHS will be using "Navigate." The software will be more efficient to track crisis drills, attendance during drills, store crisis plans electronically and share information with local authorities.

Grants

Ms. Suzie Sabo reported that she has not been able to get the piece of equipment for our cafeteria because BCTHS does not qualify due to our free/reduced numbers being too low.

Suzie reported that the new Foundation, 501c3 organization, FATE (Foundation for Academic and Technical Excellence), is up and running. There will be scholarships offered this year. It is an enthusiastic and cohesive group willing to work together for the good of the students. They will be initiating the opportunity for employee deductions for FATE.

Included in the new website being generated this summer will be a new and improve Alumni page with opportunities for Alumni to give back to their school and post job openings.

The group asked Ms. Sabo to investigate the possibility of getting grants for students to purchase tools and pay for costly certifications.

Ms. Sabo will be taking a Non-Profit Management Course at Bucks County Community College on June 10th.

Budget Info

Dr. Poeske explained the budget process briefly and that the Budget Committee has completed their meetings and will be presenting the 2019-20 Budget to the School Boards. He feels confident that there will be a consensus to pass the budget.

Dr. Poeske provided a copy of a letter that was sent to local legislators about the \$10 million PAsmart grant and how the money is planning to be allocated to Technical Schools.

Other Business

Dr. Poeske would like to double the size of the General Advisory Council. He has asked Staff members and Council members for their suggestions to broaden the membership.

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion made by Mr. Garney Morris, the meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Meeting Dates for the 2019-20 School Year:

Friday, September 13, 2019 – 10:00am

Friday, January 10, 2020 – 10:00am

Friday, May 8, 2020 – 10:00am