

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, February 18, 2022** at 10:00am in the Boardroom.

Members Present:

Brian Cummings, Director, Pa CareerLink Bucks County
Michael Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd., PFEW Advisor
Dawn Griffin, Parts and Service Director, Fred Beans Auto Group
Garney Morris, Electrician & Business Owner (Retired)
Kevin Troy, Technical Instructor, SEPTA Training and Tech Support

Bucks County Technical High School:

Leon Poeske, Ed.D., Administrative Director
Walt Hansell, School-to-Career Coordinator
Ron Martino, School-to-Career Coordinator
Gallus Obert, Guest, Former BCTHS JBC Member

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Garney Morris that the minutes of the October 8, 2021 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved.

Topics discussed are as follows:

COVID UPDATE

- Dr. Poeske shared the latest Bucks County COVID data and highlighted the downward trend in positive cases.
- The Joint Board Committee approved an update in the BCTHS Health & Safety Plan to require the use of face masks when we are in a “high” transmission period. If we fall in the “Substantial” period, masks will be strongly recommended. There was a discussion among the group of how well the school community has reacted to the COVID pandemic and adapted.

LABOR MARKET UPDATE

- Mr. Cummings shared the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis website for the group to see. This website is accessible by anyone and contains a wealth of workforce and economic statistics and analysis to help the public make informed business and career decisions. The link to the website is as follows:
<https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/Pages/Products%20By%20Geography.aspx>
- Brian told the group that unemployment numbers have come down and they have seen an increase of people seeking employment over the last couple of weeks.
- Dr. Poeske shared the Career Ready Bucks website which is a new resource available through the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. The website was created for use by students for guidance in choosing careers, for schools to help them with career paths and for business and industry to showcase employment opportunities.

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN LOCAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT/PERKINS V

- BCTHS will be holding a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment and Strategic Planning meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022. The CLNA meeting is a requirement of the Perkins grant (approximately \$400,00) and we are due to update our Strategic Plan as required by the PA Department of Education. BCTHS spends most of its Perkins grant money on salaries and benefits for paraeducators. The two meetings are being combined since there is so much overlap in the goal of the meetings, along with those who should be involved in the meetings. Our goals will be: Improve Student Achievement; Increase Support Services for Students; and Improve Operations/Infrastructure. In creating our Strategic Plan, we are looking at how our programs align with current labor data.

ESSER FUNDS (\$980,000)

- BCTHS plans to submit our grant application for ESSER funds – Federal COVID money. The use of these funds needs to be COVID-related. After getting feedback from teachers, parents, students and many others, we plan to use the funds for:
 - Chromebooks (replenishment)
 - SPED Teacher (help support learning loss – already hired)
 - Social Worker (due to increase in social-emotional learning issues-already hired)
 - Technical supplies and consumables (due to huge increase in cost)
 - Online software for academic and technical programs (to mitigate learning loss and prepare for any future disruptions);
 - Part-time nurse (contracted time)

WORK BASED EDUCATION UPDATE

- Mr. Martini reported that BCTHS received 720 applications for next school year for 425 available seats.
- Mr. Martino and Mr. Hansell have been working with Tech Teachers to get students out to businesses, i.e. US Steel and IBEW #269; SkillsUSA Competitions and EMT Testing.
- There are just under 100 students currently in co-op positions. Our Co-op Coordinators are continuing to work on building new partnerships with employers. They are collaborating with Mercer County Technical Schools on co-op opportunities.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Dr. Poeske reported that the Building Project is scheduled to begin by June 17. There is a concern over supply-chain issues. The Bond was priced this week and put out on the market - \$7.5 Million. The Warm, Safe and Dry project will focus on repairs/additions to HVAC, Roof and fire and security systems.

VEHICLE DONATION

- BCTHS received a donation of two 2015 Ford Focus vehicles from Ford Motor Co./Fred Beans. There was a photo-op with representatives from Fred Beans and BCTHS Automotive students before today's General Advisory Council meeting.

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OTHER BUSINESS

- The group is extremely empathetic to the struggles that everyone in education is working through due to COVID. Their hope is that the students can get the help they need to recoup any loss of learning/relationships due to the pandemic.
- Dr. Poeske informed the group of a new initiative to get pre-apprenticeship programs started in BCTHS and area Technical Schools.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, May 13, 2022

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion made by Garney Morris, the meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Submitted by: Nancy Greco