

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, May 14, 2021 at 10:00am via ZOOM Conferencing.

Members Present:

Brian Cummings, Director PA CareerLink Bucks County
Kelly Kelleway, Associate Provost, Bucks County Community College
Minesh Pathak, Executive Director, Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce
Tim Roach, Sales Manager, Univar
Kevin Troy, Technical Instructor, SEPTA Training and Tech Support
Joe Vaccaro, Division Maintenance Manager, ACME Markets

Bucks County Technical High School:

Hank DeGeorge, Assistant Director
Walt Hansell, School-to-Career Coordinator
Ron Martino, School-to-Career Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Mr. Kevin Troy.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Joe Vaccaro and seconded by Mr. Brian Cummings that the minutes of the October 16, 2020 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Topics discussed are as follows:

COVID-19 Updates (Mr. DeGeorge)

- BCTHS currently has 75% in-person learning: Technical classes are one grade level per day and Academic classes are in-person 100%. There is still an option for students to learn virtually. Approximately 38% of BCTHS students are opting to attend virtually. The hopes are that we will be permitted to have 100% of our students in the building in the Fall 2021.
- COVID case contact tracing keeps our nurses very busy. There have been over 460 contact tracing investigations this school year. We are following the 14 day rule by the Department of Health guidelines – if we have more than 6 in-school COVID cases in a 14 day period, we may need to close school for contact tracing/cleaning. Our nurses are doing a fantastic job and we have been able to provide them some help with the day to day school nurse responsibilities with a substitute nurse.
- Mask mandate – until further notice, BCTHS staff will continue to wear masks.

CURRICULUM/SCHOOL EVENTS (Mr. DeGeorge)

- Class of 2021 events include:
 - Senior celebration, “Night Under the Stars.” This event will be held on school grounds and include a D.J. and food prepared by our Culinary Arts program.
 - Graduation will be held on June 14th at the Cure Insurance Arena, Trenton, NJ. Tickets will be limited per student.
 - Diploma pick-up will be held the following day outside. Lawn signs, senior gifts and diplomas will be handed out through a “car parade.” This tradition started last year with the students/families celebrating with a parade of decorated cars, etc.

CURRICULUM/SCHOOL EVENTS (cont'd)

- We will not be offering our Summer Exploratory program this summer to middle school aged children. We will be offering credit recovery opportunities and also the opportunity for students go gain Technical certifications and additional skills attainment.
- There will not be any program changes for the 2021-22 school year.
- It is a Federal mandate that we administer Keystone tests in Algebra, Biology and Literature. Testing will be held May 19, 20 and 21.
- PA Department of Education has given Technical schools the option of administering NOCTI exams. BCTHS has opted not to administer these tests this year.

WORK BASED EDUCATION UPDATE (Mr. Martino)

- BCTHS has received monies through the State/Local Internship Program (SLIP). We have interviewed 20 students for available positions. The projects planned for this summer include: renovation of TPC office, sprucing up of our Sustainable Energy park and the renovation project at the Garden of Reflection 9-11 Memorial.
- Pennsbury School District has reached out to us for Electrical program students interested in working on a project in their school buildings and district office changing lighting fixtures. So far, we have five students interested in this project.
- There are 9 BCTHS students attending the PFEW program this summer.
- We had 26 students participate in a Career Ready Focus Group session at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit on May 6th. There were discussions on how the students felt about being prepared for future careers.
- We have received a little over 600 applications for the Class of 2025 for 355 available spots.

CO-OP/SECURITY REPORT (Mr. Hansell)

- We currently have 78 students on co-op. There are 23 students who have internships. The office is very busy fielding calls regarding open employment opportunities.
- Two of our students passed the SEPTA Intern exam.
- BCTHS participated in the Business to Business Association meeting in April. Mr. Hansell informed those in attendance of the Technical programs at BCTHS and how to get more involved with the students at BCTHS.
- BCTHS held a Crisis drill on May 6, 2021 with the assistance of the Bristol Township Police Department. This is drill is required to be held annually.
- Our Security staff will be developing written operational procedures.
- Safety Data Sheets have been scanned and are now store electronically.

LABOR MARKET UPDATE (Mr. Cummings)

- Mr. Cummings thanked Dr. Poeske for sharing the Bucks County Economy Overview.
- Employers are desperate for employees. There are especially a need for workers in the Manufacturing and Tourism industries. The BC Career Link will be hosting a Job Fair in June.
- The Unemployment Compensation system will be changing and the system will not be available for new claims on line. Requests for new claims will need to be made by phone.
- The unemployment rate in Bucks County is 5.9%. Job seekers are being more particular about wages and benefits.

LABOR MARKET UPDATE (cont'd)

- Mr. Cummings shared a report with the group, “PA Economic Portrait for Unemployment Compensation Data” which presented information on weekly claims, claims by industry, labor force trends by county, etc. More information can be found on the Center for Workforce Information and Analysis web page.
- Mr. Cummings told the group to reach out to him if they have anything they need further information on or help with.

BCTHS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Mr. DeGeorge)

- Mr. DeGeorge shared the presentation from the D’Huy Engineering firm regarding the BCTHS “Warm, Safe and Dry” capital improvements. This is estimated to be a \$21.67 Million project. The plan has been approved by the BCTS Authority and now needs approval from our 6 sending districts. The capital plan includes the following items:
 - WARM – HVAC Roof top equipment, ventilator replacement, cooling to 5 classroom areas and water heater replacements.
 - SAFE – HVAC controls, boiler burner replacement, fire alarm devices, emergency lighting upgrade, intercom, clocks, data cable and data closet upgrade; possible parking lot and curb upgrades.
 - DRY – 280,000 SF roof replacement.
- Mr. DeGeorge told the group they may be asked to lend support for this capital project by contacting our sending district Board members.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, October 8, 2021

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion made by Mr. Kevin Troy, the meeting adjourned at 11:00am.