

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, October 16, 2020 at 10:00am via ZOOM Conferencing.

Members Present:

Nathan Cooper, President, Komfort Heat
Brian Cummings, Director PA CareerLink Bucks County
Michael Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd.
Dawn Griffin, Parts and Service Director, Fred Beans Auto Group
Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.
Minesh Pathak, Executive Director, Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce
Tim Roach, Sales Manager, Univar
George Sabo, IV, Senior Manager, RSM US
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
Leon Poeske, Administrative Director

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Gecht and seconded by Mr. Kevin Troy that the minutes of the January 10, 2020 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Dr. Poeske welcomed the members and gave a brief overview of school procedures since the Pandemic, i.e. virtual learning, virtual and in-person Graduation events and planning for the new school year.

Topics discussed are as follows:

School Start-up

- **Health and Safety Plan**
 - Health and Safety Coordinator, Mr. Hank DeGeorge and his committee prepared a Health and Safety Plan for BCTHS. The Health and Safety Plan was submitted for approval to our Joint Board Committee and had to be submitted to the PA Department of Education. Mr. DeGeorge shared with the meeting attendees a summary of the items covered in the Health and Safety Plan and went through and explained each item.
- **Virtual-25% Hybrid – 50% Hybrid**
 - Dr. Poeske shared with the attendees a report from PDE with weekly updates on COVID cases by county.
 - BCTHS began the school year 100% Virtual. October 13th 25% of the student population were permitted to return to school – students on their Technical rotation – one grade per day. If health restrictions allow, BCTHS will allow 50% of student population to attend in-person; rotating ½ Academic classes and ½ of the Technical classes in December. Dr. Poeske shared his enthusiasm to have students in the building for the best quality of learning, especially for their technical classes.

- **New Hires/Retirements**

- BCTHS had several teachers retire at the end of the last school year. An AET teacher, Welding teacher and Science teacher were hired for the new school year - - all BCTHS alumni.
- Dr. Poeske informed the group BCTHS has been selected to participate in a study on the retention of Science teachers.

Summer Projects

- Dr. Poeske reported that, through SLIP Grant funding, our students were able to participate in a few Summer projects: Renovation of the 9-11 “Garden of Reflection,” manufacturing Personal Protection Equipment for the staff and students at BCTHS and the renovation of our Child Development and Early Learning classroom and vestibule.

Enrollment Update

- Dr. Poeske reported that our enrollment for this school year is higher than last year and we are at full capacity - 1469 students registered.

Labor Market Update

- Mr. Brian Cummings shared with the attendees a weekly unemployment report from “The Center for Workforce Info and Analysis.” (<https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/dashboards/Pages/Weekly-UC.aspx>). The report gives unemployment information by county, race, gender and industry.
- Mr. Cummings also shared the Bucks County Economy Overview report, which focuses on current and historical labor force information.
- There was a discussion on how the work force is changing with companies allowing employees to work virtually.

Work Based Education Update

- Mr. Martino and Mr. Hansell have put together a webpage on the BCTHS website for students interested in attending BCTHS. They will be distributing a “promotional” video to Middle School students to view and will be holding ZOOM meetings, as a follow-up, for Middle School students with questions about BCTHS. Due to health restrictions, we will not be able to host our annual Open House.
- School to Work Coordinators Martino and Hansell will be attending various conferences over the next few weeks.
- Currently there are 30 students on co-op.
- Twelve students participated in SLIP grant projects over the summer.
- Mr. Martino/Hansell have been visiting employers as a regular routine and verifying they are following COVID protocols.

Occupational Advisory Committees

- Mr. DeGeorge reported that the Fall Occupational Advisory Committees will meet virtually. These meetings are important since they need to make updated equipment recommendations for the Technical classes.

Articles of Agreement

- Dr. Poeske informed the group that the Article of Agreement are due for renewal at the end of this school year. The Joint Board Committee is recommending that the current Articles of Agreement be extended for one year. This will go out to the sending Districts for approval. Dr. Poeske explained that there is funding needed for capital projects at BCTHS (roof repair) that needs to be agreed-upon by the six sending districts.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, January 22, 2021

Adjournment

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

Submitted by: Nancy Greco