

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 8, 2021 at 10:00am in the Boardroom.

Members Present:

Michael Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd., PFEW Advisor
Dawn Griffin, Parts and Service Director, Fred Beans Auto Group
Kelly Kelleway, Associate Provost & V.P. of Student Affairs, Bucks County Community College
Dianna Krall, Assistant Director, B.C. Department of Workforce and Economic Development
Garney Morris, Electrician & Business Owner (Retired)
Minesh Pathak, Executive Director, Lower B.C. Chamber of Commerce
George Sabo, 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:

Leon Poeske, Ed.D., Administrative Director
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. Garney Morris.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Garney Morris that the minutes of the May 14, 2021 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Topics discussed are as follows:

SCHOOL START-UP (Dr. Poeske/Mr. DeGeorge)

- The new school year has been running relatively smoothly. Low number of reported positive COVID cases. Only 2 requests for mask exemptions. NO virtual learning option this school year.
- Students are participating in Community Based Instruction and field trips. The SkillsUSA Leadership Conference was cancelled this year. A smaller event will be held at BCTHS in November.
- The BCTHS Health and Safety Plan for the 2021-22 school year was approved at the June 2021 Joint Board Committee meeting and then revised and approved at the August 2021 JBC meeting due to changes in mask mandates. PDE streamlined the 2021-22 Health and Safety Plan. Mr. DeGeorge explained the items included in the Health and Safety Plan. Approximately 80% of our staff have received the COVID vaccine.
- We do not have results yet from Keystone testing done last school year since the deadline for testing was extended to September 30, 2021.
- It has been a challenge to get employees to fill vacant positions.

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SUMMER PROJECTS (Dr. Poeske/Mr. Martino)

- We had 20 students participating in the SLIP Grant Summer Projects this summer that included the Garden of Reflection renovation, redesign of TPC office at BCTHS and the sprucing up of the Learning Center for Sustainable Energy. The students had great learning experiences and the opportunity to make some extra money over the summer.

WORK BASED EDUCATION UPDATE (Mr. Hansell/Mr. Martino)

Middle School Recruitment

- Mr. Hansell and Mr. Martino are giving presentations to the sending district Middle Schools to recruit students to attend BCTHS. So far, they are scheduled to present at 8 out of the 12 sending district Middle Schools. Bringing Middle School students to BCTHS for group tours may prove to be a bit challenging with the bus driver shortages.

Manufacturing Day

- Mr. Raybold's Machine Technology class participated in a Manufacturing Day activity on October 1st at Tesco in Bristol and Charles Schillinger Company in Bensalem.

Crisis/Training

- Crisis Cmte met on October 4th – Ryan Gregory, Ass't. Principal/Dean of Students, will co-chair the Committee. They are currently planning the Armed Intruder Drill, managing the completion of the window security film, and establishing a Threat Assessment Team and updated the MOU with the B.T. Police Department.
- Nine BCTHS staff members certified in the American Heart Assoc. First Aid and CPR were recertified during the last school year.

Co-Op

- So far this year, there are a little under 50 students with co-op assignments. 11th grade students are now permitted to work co-op during the first semester. Transportation for students to get to jobs has been challenging due to students not having driver's licenses. Many of the co-op employers are requiring students have the COVID vaccine.
- The School-to-Career office has been getting many requests for Alumni information to fill vacant positions in the area.
- Mr. Hansell will be ending his term as President of the PA Cooperative Education Assoc. on October 15. Mr. Martino has been elected as an Eastern Region Representative, which is a 2 year term.
- Mr. Hansell and Mr. Martino will be attending a Virtual Co-Op Conference October 14-15 - Leadership Rolls.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE (Dr. Poeske)

- Each year BCTHS has increased their SPED population. We have almost 40% of our student body requiring SPED services. We are hoping to add an additional SPED teacher to our staff.

BCTHS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (Dr. Poeske)

- All six of our sending district School Boards approved our \$21.5 million capital improvement project, "Warm, Safe and Dry." The project is scheduled to begin the Summer of 2022 and take 3 years to complete.

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LABOR MARKET UPDATE (Ms. Kralle)

- Ms. Kralle briefly spoke about the Emsi handouts on the Bucks County Economy Overview and Manufacturing Industry Snapshot Report. Emsi is having an event on October 13 regarding the current economic situation and Ms. Kralle offered to provide anyone interested the information to attend.
- Everyone is hiring. Percentage of retirees is up. It has been challenging to fill entry-level positions. Employers are focusing on employee retention.
- The PA Career link is hosting numerous workshops and job fairs.

CAREER READY BUCKS

- Mr. Gecht, Mr. Troy and Dr. Poeske are involved with the Career Ready Bucks initiative. The Career Ready Bucks is a collaboration of schools working to connect students with industry and job experiences in support of their future career choices and related academic requirements.

OAC MEETINGS (Mr. DeGeorge)

- BCTHS will be holding their OAC (Occupational Advisory Council) meetings in October. The majority of the meetings will be held virtually with the exception of six classes that have chosen to hold them in-person on October 20. OAC meetings are held in the Spring and Fall. Spring meetings focus on a review of curriculum and Fall meetings focus on a review of equipment.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Poeske pointed out two brochures provided to the attendees: ASE Adopt-a-School and a brochure promoting women in non-traditional jobs. He expressed the need for current model cars for use in our Transportation Academy. Ms. Griffin, Fred Beans Auto Group, asked Dr. Poeske to give her a request in writing and she would forward it to the appropriate people.
- Mr. Michael Gecht spoke about the Pennsylvania Free Enterprise week opportunity for students. The one week Summer camp (4 sessions each summer) is held at Lycoming College and gives students the opportunity to see what it is like to run their own business. Mr. Gecht said the students were eager to participate this year.
- Dr. Kelleway reported that Bucks County Community College has a new President - Dr. Felicia Ganther. Kelly said she is very enthusiastic and has great visions for BCCC which include more career-oriented programs. The college is also interested in creating more Articulation Agreements with area schools. Dr. Kelleway said enrollment is down about 13% which is common among the 2 year colleges.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, February 18, 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