

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, January 10, 2020 at 10:00am in the ADMIN Conference Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Brian Cummings, Director PA CareerLink Bucks County
Michael Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd.
Dawn Griffin, Parts and Service Director, Fred Beans Auto Group
Samantha Gross, Associate Dean, Bucks County Community College
Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.
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 10:02am by Mr. Garney Morris.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the September 13, 2019 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Perkins Grant Summary

- A hand-out was provided to the attendees outlining the Perkins Grant focus group meeting held on November 12, 2019 at BCTHS. Perkins is a Federal Grant which funds the employment of the Facilitators at BCTHS. Mr. DeGeorge reviewed the handout with the group and the findings of the 3 focus groups which brought out various needs for improvement at BCTHS.

Enrollment Update

- Dr. Poeske reported to the group that our School to Career Coordinators gave presentations to our 6 sending district Middle Schools and hosted 8th grade student tours at BCTHS. They have been asked to give a presentation to a Bristol Boro 6th grade class in May.
- BCTHS received 725 applications for the 2020-2021 school year. About 410 students will be accepted for the 2020-2021 school year. There was some discussion on the increasing popularity of technical education and as to whether there was any room for BCTHS to grow in order to be in a position to enroll more students.

Emergency Preparedness/Crisis Update

- Mr. Hansell reported that BCTHS conducted their mandated evacuation drill and that the 9th grade students received the active shooter training from our Health and PE staff.
- The state now requires bomb threat and hostage training due to a new law that has been put in place. The Crisis Committee will be working with members from the Bristol Township Police Department to develop staff training on this requirement. There are 2 B.T. police officers that participate in the monthly Crisis Committee meetings.

Labor Market Update

- The group was provided with a Emsi Occupation Snapshot report on Veterinary Techs and Assistants. This is a program BCTHS is considering adding to their Technical program offerings. Mr. Cummings went over the report with the group. Data collected for Bucks County was higher than the National average in most areas.
- There was some discussion on the addition of a Cyber Security program vs. a Vet Tech program. Mr. DeGeorge mentioned that cyber security is being incorporated into our Computer Systems' course.

Work Based Education Update

- Mr. Martino reported that they currently have 102 students in the co-op program and 23 Seniors on Cosmetology internships.
- Mr. Martino and Mr. Hansell are both part of the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce Leadership Mentor program.
- Mr. Hansell was elected as the President of the PA Co-Op Association.
- Promotional video is being created with the intent to get students interested in the Construction trades.

Grant Updates/Foundation

Dr. Poeske reported on the following:

- Equipment grant awarded to BCTHS for \$50,000. These monies will be used for equipment in our Machine Technology program – CNC machine and a lathe.
- Application submitted for another grant for additional monies for equipment – up to \$65,000. Several Technical teachers have expressed interest in getting equipment for their programs.
- SLIP Grant – State and Local Internship Program – currently working on a proposal to get monies for summer programs at BCTHS. One program to be conducted through the SLIP grant is the refurbishment of the Garden of Reflection in Upper Makefield.
- The 501c3 Foundation group is up and running at BCTHS. The Foundation is a non-profit that works to foster relationships with the community, government and educational institutions by providing scholarships for students at BCTHS. Many of the current members are former employees from BCTHS and Alumni. There is a link on the BCTHS website for donations.

State Metrics/Assessments

- Mr. DeGeorge showed the group data on the PA School Performance Profile website. The data is collected from results of the state-mandated Keystone and NOCTI assessments.
- There are some areas where BCTHS needs improvement and those areas are being addressed.

PA Free Enterprise Week

- Mr. Gecht met with students in the technical classes to promote PA Free Enterprise Week. They have received 14 applications from BCTHS students. He asked if there were any resources to help with the application fees. Dr. Poeske said he was looking into this.

National School of Character

- Mr. Kevin Troy mentioned that he was involved in the initiative and reported that BCTHS had completed their application to be recognized as a National School of Character.

Next Meeting Date:

Friday, May 8, 2020 at 10:00am

Adjournment

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

Submitted by: Nancy Greco