

Bucks County Technical High School  
**General Advisory Council**

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A meeting of the General Advisory Council of Bucks County Technical High School was held on Friday, September 13, 2019 at 10:00am in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

**Members Present:**

Nathan Cooper, President, Komfort Heat  
Kelly Kelleway, Associate Provost, Bucks County Community College  
Dianna Kralle, PA CareerLink, Deputy Director, B.C. Workforce Development Board  
Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.  
George Sabo, IV, Senior Manager, RSM US  
Joe Vaccaro, Division Maintenance Manager, ACME Markets

**Bucks County Technical High School:**

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 and seconded that the minutes of the April 12, 2019 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

**Introduction of Members**

New General Council Advisory member, Joe Vaccaro, introduced himself and told the group a little bit about his background.

**School Start Up**

Dr. Poeske informed the group that BCTHS would be administering pre-NOCTI assessments to seniors in October. The purpose of these tests is for teachers to see the strengths and weaknesses of students. BCTHS scored just under 90% Proficient/Advanced and our goal is to reach over 90% Proficient/Advanced for the 2019-20 school year.

Administration at BCTHS is encouraging Technical teachers to seek out additional certifications for their students.

The Technical programs of study continue to update their programs to be in compliance with the the Programs of Study from PDE.

Keystone Exam retake testing will take place in December and first time testing will be administered in the Spring. There was some discussion about low scores and also the percentage of SPED students enrolled. Dr. Poeske noted that there has been growth shown in scores. Kelly Kelleway mentioned that Bucks County Community College is beginning to place students based on their High School G.P.A. and not Admissions testing.

### **Summer Projects**

Dr. Poeske reported to the group about the projects over the summer with monies from the SLIP grant:

- Learning Center for Sustainable Energy – solar power park with kiosks – Ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for the Fall; Grand Opening planned for Earth Day 2020 when it will be available to the public.
- Landscape/Maintenance – grounds projects, landscaping/line painting.
- Ecosystem trails – Environmental Science teacher built trails to the watershed to make it easier for students to obtain water samples.
- CDEL remodeling/Wood Tables – CDEL classroom remodeled under the direction of the Fine Woodworking teacher and also the creation of woods desks from 11 different species of wood.

### **Enrollment Update**

BCTHS currently has 415 ninth grade students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year. We continue to receive more applicants than we can accommodate. There was some discussion about expanding the popular programs/closing lower enrollment classes.

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development is a new program started which resulted as a combination of the Marketing and Business Management programs.

In the future there may be a possibility to add a Sports Medicine program or Vet Tech program.

### **Labor Market Update**

Dianna Kralle reviewed the Job Outlook reports of Bucks County, i.e. the Bucks County Economy Overview and the Occupation Snapshot report for Automotive Technicians. There was some discussion on the retirement data, job openings and salary data. Dianna let the group know these reports are available for all to use when there is a need.

Mr. Hansell mentioned that he still has issues getting co-op/internships with some Automotive Dealerships.

### **Work Based Education Update**

School to Career Coordinators reported on the following:

- They are currently planning the Middle school presentations and tours which generate interest in BCTHS and attendance at Open House on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Manufacturing day is October 4<sup>th</sup> – they will be taking students to attend events on that day from the Electrical Occupations, AET and Machine Tech programs – CareerLink is providing transportation to this event.
- They will have 2 students participating in the SEPTA Women Can Do Anything Transportation event on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Attending Co-op Conference at Penn State in October.

- Ron and Walt are both Leadership Mentors for the Leadership Program at the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Conference; Walt is involved in the Government Committee and Ron is involved in the Career Pathways Initiative.
- Three students from BCTHS attended the PFEW program last summer and 2 of the students will participate in the student round table discussion in October.
- October 29<sup>th</sup> is the BCTHS Career Fair.
- There are currently 64 students on co-op. As the year ended last year, there were over 200 students on co-op.
- Walt is a co-chair of the Crisis Committee with the Assistant Principal, Ms. Scott and they will be meeting in October to discuss the annual evacuation drill which is required to occur during the first 90 days of school. All students received active shooter training last school year and practiced evacuating and barricading last year. The current 9<sup>th</sup> grade class will be trained prior to the drill by the Health and Phys Ed department.
- The Crisis Committee is also implementing the *Navigate Prepared* software. This software helps to develop crisis plans and communicates with our student information system allowing us to take attendance of students during a crisis situation.

### **OAC Meetings**

OAC meetings will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 5:30pm.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Poeske gave the General Advisory Council members a tour of the Learning Center for Sustainable Energy.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

- Friday, January 10, 2020 at 10:00am
- Friday, May 8, 2020 at 10:00am

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, and upon a motion made by Mr. Garney Morris, the meeting adjourned at 11:25am.