

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 11, 2019 at 10:00am in the Board Room at Bucks County Technical High School.

Members Present:

Brian Cummings, Director, PA CareerLink Bucks County

Mike Gecht, President, Travel Ease, Ltd.

Garney Morris, Garney Morris, Inc.

Kevin Troy, Technical Instructor, SEPTA Training & Tech Support (STATS)

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 10:06am by Mr. Garney Morris.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded that the minutes of the September 14, 2018 meeting be approved. Council members unanimously approved. Self-introductions followed.

Program Updates

Mr. DeGeorge reported that the Marketing Management teacher is retiring at the end of this school year and not being replaced. The Marketing class and Business Management classes will be combined. A possible title will be Marketing Business Management/Entrepreneurship. OAC members from these shops will be meeting in March to discuss the new program details.

There are also plans to add another technical area. Possible choices are: Veterinarian, Occupational Therapy/Sports Medicine or Practical Auto Mechanic (auto basics). Mr. Cummings offered his assistance when choosing a new program.

Mr. DeGeorge reported that over 300 OAC members participated in meetings on October 10, 2018. Minutes have been completed and signed off by supervisors. Teachers are looking at the recommendations of their members and implementing them in their shops.

Mr. DeGeorge reported the offering of 2 new Senior electives: Introduction to Mass Communications and Public Speaking.

Dr. Poeske mentioned efforts to employ another person to assist with students in crisis, i.e. School Psychologist or Social Worker.

Academic Revisions

Mr. DeGeorge reported that Algebra is being given to 9th graders on both sides of the rotation – Technical and Academic. Classroom Diagnostic Tool exams (CDTs) are being given to students taking Keystone courses in preparation for upcoming Keystone testing (Algebra, Literature and Biology). It is a good benchmark to see where the students are and where they need extra help.

Facility/Enrollment Update

Dr. Poeske reported that the School Board suggested a change in the Admissions process (versus policy) and they have agreed to leave it as is for now and monitor the procedures. Right now they are projecting 425 Freshmen for the class of 2023.

Mr. Hansell reported that 682 applications were received for approximately 425 spots – 2nd highest of all times. He said the October and November Middle School tours were completed.

Dr. Poeske mentioned there is currently no money available for renovations. 36% of the building rooms have leak issues. He mentioned they may revisit this issue with the School Board in November.

Safe2Say Something

Mr. Hansell reported on the new initiative - Safe2Say Something in all PA schools starting January 14, 2019. It is an anonymous reporting system that is a statewide initiative that is being overseen by the PA Attorney General's Office as a method of reporting threats or other crisis type information to or about schools. BCTHS has a team of 7 people that will receive any emergency or non-emergency notifications via Safe2Say. The Crisis Committee is currently making changes to the Safe School Plan.

Work Based Education Update

Mr. Hansell reported that BCTHS has a total of 144 students they are working with: 86 on co-op and 28 on internships. He also mentioned that several of our tech shops are working with area businesses and are the benefactor of donations.

Mr. Hansell mentioned they receive a multitude of requests for graduates to fill job openings. He is hoping when our Alumni association gets up and running, this may be a good avenue to reach former students.

The School to Career office is gearing up for the Senior Survey and promoting the PFEW – PA Free Enterprise Week.

Labor Market Update

Mr. Cummings reported that there is a 4% unemployment rate and that they received a \$1.7 Million grant for dislocated retail employees.

Mr. Cummings reported that John Flanagan is resigning as the Director of the Bucks County Workforce Development Board in order to take a similar position in Florida. Mr. Cummings is also excited to judge for the upcoming SkillsUSA competitions at MBIT.

Mr. Cummings reported that the PA CareerLink is moving to the campus of the Bucks County Community College - Lower Bucks Campus and will be called the Center for Economic and Workforce Development.

Grant Updates

Dr. Poeske reported that BCTHS has received \$100,000 grant for tech shops that fall under the high demand occupations. They are planning to allot these funds to Fine Woodworking, Welding and Automotive Tech shops.

Dr. Poeske mentioned that he submitted an application for a Safe Schools grant, \$50,000 but has not received any response from the grant appropriators.

Dr. Poeske reported that we are fortunate to be the recipients of 21st Century Grant monies but the restrictions are that these programs have to be used for programs being held outside the school day.

State Metrics/Assessments

Mr. DeGeorge reported on the School Performance Profile and mentioned that BCTHS is ranked 3rd among the 7 Lower Bucks County school districts.

Mr. DeGeorge also spoke about the Future Ready PA Index which is the new school report card and consists of 3 components where BCTHS is rated highly in 6 out of 8 areas.

Mr. DeGeorge reported that BCTHS Keystone Scores have improved over last year. NOCTI scores were slightly lower than last year but the goal for this year is to show progress in areas that needed improvement.

Adjournment

There being no further business, and upon a motion made by Mr. Garney Morris, the meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the General Advisory Council will be held on Friday, April 12, 2019 at 10am in the BCTHS Board Room.

Submitted by: Nancy Greco