MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

March 18, 2010

The meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education was convened on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at the Chester County Technical College High School (280 Pennock's Bridge Road, West Grove). Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Joseph Torsella, Chair.

Attending:

Dr. James Barker
Ms. Esther Bush
Dr. Corrinne Caldwell
Sen. Andrew Dinniman
Mr. Daniel Fogarty
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Dr. Arnold Hillman
Mr. Gardiner Kreglow
Mrs. Mollie Phillips (via telephone)
Mr. Joseph Torsella
Ms. Karen Farmer White
Dr. A. Lee Williams
Mr. Larry Wittig
Mr. Andrew Youstic

Absent:

Mr. James Agras
Rep. Paul Clymer
Ms. Connie Davis
Ms. Shannon Farrelly
Sheila Dow Ford
Mr. Travis Gilbert
Dr. Francine McNairy
Dr. Francis Michelini
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Rep. James Roebuck, Jr.
Mr. Edward Sheehan, Jr.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Mr. Joseph Torsella opened the meeting by expressing the Board's thanks to the administration and staff of the Chester County Technical College High School for their hospitality. The Chair further noted that the school's innovative programming should be a statewide model.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush, the minutes of the January 28, 2010, meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Dr. Lee Burket, Director for Career and Technical Education, along with staff members Ms. Lydia Hess and Mr. David Garnes, briefed the Board on technical institute programming and presented draft guidelines for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Garnes noted that the guidelines are divided into three areas: the legal basis for establishment of technical institutes; the application for establishment; and forms presented for examination by the Board. Mr. Garnes and Ms. Hess reviewed the guidelines and clarified the steps involved in applying for status as a technical institute.

Following the presentation, Dr. Corrinne Caldwell questioned the lack of involvement of community colleges. Dr. Burket responded that a technical institute is not a degree-granting program, though several technical institutes have made their facilities available to community college students who need to articulate with a degree-granting program.

A request was made for more information on student populations served by technical institutes and how the programs interface with existing career and technical education offerings. Chairman Torsella directed Board staff to work with the Vocational-Technical Education Committee to prepare a briefing document that will provide context for a second presentation on the draft guidelines at the May 6 State Board meeting in advance of action at the July 1 meeting.

Dr. Burket also presented materials that would clarify the appeal processes for students denied admission to career and technical education programs under either 22 Pa. Code § 339.21(4) or Section 1809(a) of the Public School Code. In both cases, students denied admission to programs may appeal to the State Board for Vocational Education. The Board's counsel noted that the Education Law Center suggested minor revisions to improve the clarity of the draft policies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jackie Cullen, Executive Director of the PA Association of Career and Technical Administrators, spoke in support of adoption of the Guidelines for Technical Institutes.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion to approve the appeal processes for students denied admission to vocational education programs, pending minor revisions by the Office of General Counsel, was made by Mr. Daniel Fogarty, seconded by Ms. Esther Bush.

ROLL CALL VOTE

FOR: Barker, Bush, Caldwell, Dinniman, Fogarty, Dungee Glenn, Hillman, Phillips, Torsella, Farmer White, Williams, Wittig

OPPOSED: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m. by motion of Dr. A. Lee Williams, seconded by Mr. Larry Wittig.

Barbara Baker

Barbara Baker
Administrative Assistant