

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.**

**333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Honors Suite  
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

**July 20, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

**Attending:**

Erin Agnew	Connie Davis	Francine McNairy	Ed Sheehan
James Agras	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Francis Michelini	Shannon Sullivan
James Barker	Paul Ferrera	Ivory Nelson	Karen Farmer White
Wendy Beetlestone	Dan Fogarty	Jon Peri	Lee Williams
David Collins	Kirk Hallett	Mollie Phillips	Larry Wittig
Senator Dinniman			

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 18, 2011, meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education were approved on a **Michelini/Beetlestone** motion.

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

Dr. Lee Burket reviewed information presented in her written report. She thanked Jim Agras for bringing to the Board's attention that increases in the academic achievement of CTE students was seen not only in school districts and CTE centers, but improvement also was seen on end-of-program technical assessments (such as NOCTI).

Dr. Burket also noted that the Bureau has launched a statewide initiative to increase the quality and impact of career and technical education programs, while ensuring that they are aligned with the Commonwealth's economic and workforce development priorities. The Technical Assistance Program (TAP) provides assistance to help raise student performance on the PSSA and technical end-of-program assessments. Assistance includes resources and sustained professional development for administrators, guidance counselors, instructors and paraprofessionals which are focused on instructional strategies, use of data to make instructional decisions, coaching for administrators, and assisting special needs students. TAP also is connected to the Pennsylvania CTE Best Practices Initiative, which documents strategies used by CTE programs to create standards aligned systems and to support those systems with people, processes and partnerships. Dr. Burket report that a total of 65 CTCs and school districts are participating in TAP during the 2011-2012 school year, which is the fourth year of the TAP program. A list of participating schools and services provided via TAP was shared with the Board.

Dr. Burket reported that, as a result of TAP, student proficiency on the NOCTI increased from 55% in 2006 to more than 70% in 2010. Similarly, CTE student's reading proficiency improved by 8% on the PSSA between 2006-2010 and CTE's student math proficiency on the PSSA improved by 40% over that same time period. Based on feedback from schools, Dr. Burket said she anticipates that academic achievement increases for CTE students will be even higher for the 2010-2011 school year.

Dr. Burket also noted that three statewide Programs of Study (POS) are ready for implementation during the 2011-2012 program year (Management Information Systems General; Engineering Technologies/Technicians, Other; and Communication Technology and Support Services, Other). Each POS was developed with input from industry representatives, secondary instructors and postsecondary faculty. POSs are aligned to industry standards, and a next step in completing their implementation will be to work with related Perkins postsecondary education providers to ensure POS course alignment and determine credit articulation.

Dan Fogarty complimented the Reading-Muhlenberg CTC for receiving national recognition from the *SREB Outstanding Technical Center That Work Centers* and asked Dr. Burket to relay the Board's congratulations. This award is given to Technical Centers that Work centers because of a significant increase in the percentage of students passing the state-approved technical end-of-program assessment.

Upon discussion with the Board, Mr. Fogarty asked if Career and Technical Education programs were being impacted by school district budget pressures, noting media reports of potential funding cuts or closures for CTE programs. Dr. Burket noted that 12% of students in grades 9-12 are enrolled in CTE either at their school district or at a Career and Technical Center. Districts participating in a joint CTE program are allotted a certain number of students each district can send to the CTE on a per student tuition basis. Dr. Burket reported that she has seen a small number of districts hold back students as a cost-savings measure. In such instances, the Bureau will follow-up with the district regarding the students rights under Chapter 4. Sen. Dinniman asked if limited admissions were being seen across the Board or concentrated primarily in high-need areas, and Mr. Hallett asked about the Harrisburg School District's relationship with Dauphin County Vocational Technical School. Dr. Burket said admissions concerns were concentrated in a few districts in the eastern and western part of the Commonwealth, and that Harrisburg schools had been compliant. Dr. Burket noted the Bureau also has been receiving requests from some districts interested in operating their own CTE programs as a potential cost-saving measure.

Mr. Fogarty mentioned again that 12% of PA high school students in grades 9-12 are enrolled in a CTE program while European countries have close to 80% of their students enrolled in highly-quality vocational-technical education. Mr. Fogarty spoke to the importance of creating student-centered partnerships for technical education and placing more emphasis on technical education during Board deliberations, given that half of the jobs being created in the new economy require high-level academics and technical skills, but not necessarily a four-year college degree. Ms. Dungee-Glenn asked if Dr. Burket can provide the Board with best practices in Industry Partnerships supporting technical education.

PUBLIC COMMENT

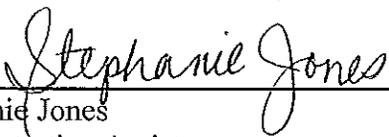
There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

  
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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant