MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
750 East King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602

May 18, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Barker	Ivory Nelson	Shannon Sullivan
Wendy Beetlestone	Jonathan Peri	Karen Farmer White
Kirk Hallett	Mollie O'Connell Phillips	Lee Williams
Francis Michelini	Edward Sheehan	Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 16, 2011, meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education were approved on a **Peri/Nelson** motion.

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

Dr. Lee Burket, Bureau Director, prepared a report on CTE student achievement that shows concerted reform efforts have helped increase achievement in both reading and math. She presented data that compares the number of CTE students proficient on the PSSA to the overall student population for 11th grade. Dr. Burket also reported that the Bureau of Career and Technical Education is on track to submit a petition to the U.S. Department of Education by June 1, 2011 seeking renewal of the Board's accrediting authority. She will let the Board know when a hearing is scheduled on the petition.

Dr. Burket then reviewed information presented in her written report, and highlighted the following:

- **Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program** – Four Pennsylvania students were selected to participate in the exchange program this year, which provides a full scholarship for qualifying career and technical students to spend a year abroad in Germany where they will participate in either an educational or employment experience. Annually, 20 students the U.S. are selected for the exchange program. The finalists are from Warren County CTC, Swenson Arts & Technology High School, Sharpsville High School and Franklin County CTC.

- **DECA State Leadership Skills Competition** – More than 1,300 students participated in the annual DECA State Leadership Conference, which provides an opportunity for students studying marketing, finance, hospitality and management to compete in

individual and team events in their area of discipline; 300 Pennsylvania students will move forward to compete in the upcoming international conference. At this years state conference, DECA students were awarded more than $35,000 in scholarships due to the generosity of business partners.

- **Civil Rights Compliance Process** – PDE is required to review eight LEAs annually for compliance with the federal Civil Rights Act. Dr. Burket presented a list of the LEAs that will be reviewed during the 2011-12 and 2012-13 school years and noted that an in-service on how to prepare for civil rights compliance reviews will be conducted at the PA Association of Career and Technical Education Conference in June.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Bergin, an Occupational Advisory Committee member to Edison High School's HVAC program, addressed the Board during public comment. Mr. Bergin said that he has seen positive changes in vocational education and that it is important for schools to produce students with entry-level skills, not just journeyman skills. He said that a few years ago he participated in a Program of Study (POS) workgroup convened by Dr. Burket, and reported that Pennsylvania's POS work has significantly impacted curriculum in other states based on a regional entity that has realigned its guides based on PA's efforts. Mr. Bergin also suggested that the Board look closely at the curriculum used in mechanical engineering programs to provide all students with "real world" applications of math and science curriculum, and that the Board look at the national electric code for real career applicability of Algebra I.

Secretary Tomalis asked Mr. Bergin for a definition of three entry level skills for CTE students. Mr. Bergin replied: Can you measure something to length? Can you cut it to length without losing a body part? Can you think?

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant