MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

November 14, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Sec. Carol Aichele
Kevin Bates
Wendy Beetlestone
Emily Clark
Sandra Dungee Glenn *(via phone)*
James Grandon
Kirk Hallett
Francis Michelini *(via phone)*
Jonathan Peri
Mollie Phillips *(via phone)*
Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Craig Snider
Karen Farmer White *(via phone)*
Lee Williams
Larry Wittig

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12, 2013, meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Williams/Beetlestone** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Due to Chairman Jim Agras's absence, Dr. Lee Burket, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Educational (BCTE), provided an update to the State Board about the Committee meeting held that morning:

Accreditation

Dr. Burket reported that Schuylkill Technology Center (STC) was due to be evaluated for re-accreditation of its postsecondary programs. BCTE worked with an Institutional Accreditation Advisory Group (IAAG) to conduct an on-site review, and provided a report of its findings which stated that STC had more than adequately met the criteria for re-accreditation. Dr. Burket reported that the Department supports the recommendation of the IAAG to grant accreditation status and noted that the final draft report outlining the reasons for the recommendation was provided to the State Board for review. Dr. Burket explained that the next step for the State Board would be to send a copy of that report and accreditation recommendation to STC and to provide them with the opportunity to appeal any of the opportunities for improvement or any other comments found throughout the report. If after 30 days Schuylkill does not ask for an appeal, then the next step would be for the Board to vote on the accreditation status during its January 2014 Board meeting.

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

Dr. Lee Burket also highlighted the following items from the written report prepared by the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE):

Supplemental Equipment Grant

Act 59 of 2013 (Section 2508.5) provides school districts with approved career and technical education programs and career and technical centers (CTC)/area vocational-technical schools (AVTS) the opportunity to purchase equipment. Approximately $3 million in state funds is available for this initiative.

The purpose of the CTE Supplemental Equipment Grant program is to purchase equipment that meets industry standards. Funds must be used to purchase equipment that: (a) supports student training in approved career and technical education programs; (b) meets industry standards; (c) is recommended by the program's Occupational Advisory Committee; and (d) costs $3,000 or more, the remaining funds can be used to purchase equipment that costs less than $3,000.

Applications were accepted from August 8th through September 6th. Of the 180 eligible entities, 108 applied for the funding (38 school districts and 70 career and technical centers).

Equipment Grant Awards

Approximately $1.6 million in state funds is available for the purchase of equipment that will be used for secondary instructional purposes in approved career and technical education programs. Fifty-two schools met the October 7, 2013 deadline for the 2013-2014 competitive equipment grant program. All programs must be aligned with Pennsylvania's targeted industry clusters and high-priority occupations and each grant application must include a letter of support from the Workforce Investment Board. A list of recommended awardees will be sent to the Deputy Secretary the third week of November with an official announcement thereafter.

Perkins Required Secondary/Postsecondary Compliance Visits

During the 2013-14 school year, 25 Perkins compliance review visits have been scheduled. Based on Perkins State Plan, annually, 20 percent of the underperforming Perkins funded recipients will be selected for on-site compliance and technical assistance visits based on the following criteria: (a) most recent validated performance data putting the program at risk of non-compliance with Perkins performance measures as identified in the state negotiated targets; and, (b) mismanagement of the plan as evidenced by guideline violations in regards to timely submission of the annual application, performance assessment, program data and fiscal reporting.

Adult Accreditation

BCTE received the draft staff analysis of the State Board's accreditation petition from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). The staff analysis identified one area of non-compliance.

The remaining issue is that the Department needs to provide documentation of its communication to an institution regarding an adverse action decision, including the reasons for the adverse action and notice of the right to appeal the decision or indicate it has taken no adverse actions that an institution may appeal.

Dr. Burket reported that Bureau staff will attend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity on December 12th & 13th, 2013 to defend the petition. If the response is accepted, USDE staff indicated that they will recommendation that Pennsylvania receive renewed recognition for a two-year period.

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 1:15 p.m. The meeting was adjourned on a **Michelini/E. Sheehan** motion.

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant