

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 13, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras <i>(via phone)</i>	Sandra Dungee Glenn	Craig Snider <i>(via phone)</i>
Carol Aichele	Maureen Lally-Green <i>(via phone)</i>	Karen Farmer White
James Barker <i>(via phone)</i>	Mollie Phillips <i>(via phone)</i>	A. Lee Williams
Kevin Bates	Justin Reynolds	Larry Wittig
Emily Clark		

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Karen Molchanow, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, provided an update on yesterday's meeting of the Vocational-Technical Education Committee on behalf of Committee Chair James Agras. Ms. Molchanow reported on the following two items that were on the Committee's agenda:

Indiana County Technology Center (ICTC)

ICTC is seeking accreditation from the State Board for Vocational Education for its postsecondary programs for a five-year period. The Department has made a recommendation in favor of granting accreditation status to the school, and, in January, the Board received an initial presentation on the Department's site visit and findings related to the institution that identified no corrective actions for the school. The Committee recommends that the Board approve accreditation status for the school.

State Board role as an accrediting authority

The Committee continued discussion on whether the Board should retain its role as an accrediting authority for postsecondary CTC programs. Previously, the Committee looked at the costs of providing services at the state level versus services provided by private accrediting entities. Yesterday, Dr. Lee Burket provided additional perspective on this matter from the Department and indicated that the Department is in favor of maintaining the state's role in accreditation. The Committee also heard from Jackie Cullen, who represents vocational-technical administrators, and offered perspective from the field that indicated strong support for the Board maintaining its role as an accrediting authority, not solely based on cost but also because of the high quality of the review process conducted by the Department and the Board.

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

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

Program of Study (POS) Updates and Revisions

The POS effort is aligned with the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The Department's BCTE has revised Phase IV POS talk lists to align technical standards to new or modified industry standards. There is currently a second validation by postsecondary faculty of the technical standards being conducted through the use of an online survey. The final technical standards will be completed in March. Secondary career and technical education instructors will revise their curriculum to show alignment to the revised technical standards and begin offering the revised POS in the 2014-15 school year.

POS Phase I & II -- Many schools use crosswalks to demonstrate their alignment to the standards. The Bureau has developed a POS Common Core Matrix crosswalk for each of the Phase I and II Programs of Study. BCTE has worked with academic and technical instructors to validate the alignment. The technical standards also have been aligned to the National Career Technical Common Core. Once the validation is complete, the POS Common Core Matrix will be disseminated and posted on PDE's website.

Career Pathways Plan

A Career Pathway approval is an option in the CTE Information System. Career Pathways include POS that fall within the same cluster. Once a Career Pathway is approved, it offers the same foundational curriculum during the first year with students selecting a specialized area to pursue for the remainder of high school. The Department approved 21 programs as a pathway at five CTC's in 2013-14 school year.

Approved CTE Program Evaluation

BCTE program specialists are preparing to visit and review 47 schools during the 2014-15 school year. During these 3-day reviews that occur on a 5-year rotation, approved CTE programs are evaluated to ensure that they are operating in compliance with Pa. Code 22, Chapters 4 and 339. There are over 20 quality indicators that are considered during each visit.

Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) Data

The CAR is the information that BCTE provides to the U.S. Department of Education (USDE). This information was submitted in mid-January 2014. Within the report there are eight Secondary Indicators and six Postsecondary Indicators. The current report covers data from the 2012-2013 school year, one year behind the data reported to USDE. BCTE is in the process of negotiating targets with the USDE because the Perkins regulation has not been reauthorized; and they are seeking an extension to that grant.

Accreditation

During September through November 2013, BCTE conducted accreditation site reviews at Clearfield County Career and Technology Center and Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center. BCTE will present the final draft reports for each review during the May 2014 Board meeting.

Mifflin Juniata Career and Technical Education Center is dissolving effective the end of June 2014. Mifflin County School District is interested in being recognized as a single district CTC, and the State Board has provided them with a set of criteria as to what is expected in a petition for single district status. The petition is due April 14, 2014, and the district appears to be proceeding on time.

Sandra Dungee Glenn asked whether industry certifications have become a required standard and whether Dr. Burket could provide information on the average cost for a school to be aligned with offering industry certifications. Dr. Burket stated that she gathered cost information last year and that it varies widely. A certification exam could range from \$20 to a couple hundred dollars, depending on the field. In some cases, a school must be accredited in order to offer the certification, which drives the cost up further. Ms. Dungee Glenn asked Dr. Burket if she could provide what might be an average cost for students. She also asked whether there are any model programs in place that might be replicated. Dr. Burket stated that in Washington Area and Washington County CTC every certification is paid for due to a local commitment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

There were no action items

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant