MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

July 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Carol Aichele	Kirk Hallett	Jonathan Peri
Jay Badams	Maureen Lally-Green	Mollie Phillips *(via phone)*
James Barker	Teresa Lebo	Justin Reynolds
Wendy Beetlestone	Donald LeCompte	Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Francis Michelini *(via phone)*	A. Lee Williams
		Larry Wittig

The minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Williams/Peri** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Larry Wittig, Board Chairman, provided a brief update on activity from the July 9, 2014 meeting of the Vocational-Technical Education Committee. Mr. Wittig reported that the Committee received a briefing from the Department about three new matters that will need to come before the Board: accreditation applications from Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center and Clearfield County Career and Technology Center and a need for the Connellsville Area School District to seek formal recognition as a single district Career and Technology Center. Information related to each of those matters was provided to members in their meeting binders. Mr. Wittig asked Dr. Lee Burket, Bureau Director for Career and Technical Education, to elaborate on those matters during her report.

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

Dr. Burket followed-up on Chairman Wittig's request to elaborate on the July 9 meeting of the Vocational-Technical Education Committee.

She said the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE) conducted accreditation site reviews of Clearfield County CTC and Greater Johnstown CTC in 2013. Preliminary Draft Reports were sent to the schools with opportunities for them to make comments and/or submit additional evidence. A Final Draft Report was submitted to the Institutional Accreditation Advisory Group (IAAG) for review and discussion. The Final Draft Report includes a recommendation to re-accredit both CTCs, and that recommendation is supported by the

Department, its site review teams and the IAAG. The Final Draft Report will be presented to the Board for review and a final vote at it September 2014 meeting.

Related to the Connellsville Area School District, Dr. Burket said the North Fayette Career and Technology Center dissolved in 2001, but a formal petition to transition to the Connellsville Area School District as a single district provider of CTE following the dissolution never was pursued with the Board. She said the Board will request minutes from each entity involved in dissolving North Fayette and materials indicating their support for Connellsville's single district status by August 11 in order to prepare a petition for the Board's consideration in September.

During the Committee meeting, a request was made for enrollment figures of students in approved Career and Technical Education programs in Connellsville. Dr. Burket said 328 students were enrolled in such programs in the 2011-2012 school year and in 2012-2013 there were 329 students.

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

Technical Assistance Program

The plan and services for the seventh year of the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) are being finalized. TAP continues to remain focused on assisting career and technical education instructors and administrators at career and technical centers to improve student technical and academic achievement. Dr. Burket noted that while there is continued growth in achievement, the level of improvement is slowing down. Last year, 83% of students enrolled in career and technical education were proficient, while this past year proficiency levels were 84%. CTE programs are still performing at a lower level of proficiency than students generally.

Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program

This scholarship program operated through the U.S. Department of Education offers an opportunity for career and technical seniors to apply for an exchange program to continue their education. The program will enable 25 students from various states to spend the 2014-15 school year in Germany, where they will participate either in an educational or employment experience. Three students from Pennsylvania were selected to participate in 2014-15, which speaks to the quality of Pennsylvania's CTE programs as states typically only have one student participant.

Industry Relevance

Seventeen new certifications were added to the Industry-Recognized Certification for CTE guide released by BCTE in April. BCTE works with schools and industry to identify credentials which will add value to CTE programs and increase student employability. Updates to the certification listings are made as industry standards evolve and government regulations change.

Civil Right Activities

The U.S. Office for Civil Rights (OCR) mandates that each state develop a review process to measure the compliance of publicly funded programs with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Vocational Education Guidelines of 1979 explain the civil rights responsibilities of recipients of federal financial assistance that offer or administer CTE programs. LEAs are targeted for review based on high IEP enrollments, low nontraditional enrollments, disparity in enrollment per race/sex, number of programs and date of last review. Annually, a minimum of 2.5% of the 189 secondary subrecipients and 30 postsecondary subrecipients must be reviewed. In 2013-2014, one postsecondary and six secondary institutions were reviewed. Non-compliance issues were identified at all of the institutions reviewed, and the most common issues dealt with program/building accessibility and publication of notices of nondiscrimination.

Other

Dr. Burket stated that at a previous meeting she was asked about the cost of industry certifications. BCTE surveyed all CTC's and school districts for this information and received 15 responses. Based on the responses received, schools are picking up the cost of certifications. If a student does not pass the certification the first time, then the student/parent/guardian is responsible for costs related to re-tests.

Chairman Wittig commented on the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program to say that usually only one student per state is chosen, however Pennsylvania had three students selected with two being from the same CTC. He asked whether this is unusual. Dr. Burket said the application is very rigorous and these three individuals stood out among their national peers.

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 8:47 a.m. on a **Peri/Dungee Glenn** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant