MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

Carol Aichele	Maureen Lally-Green *(via phone)*	Colleen Sheehan *(via phone)*
Jay Badams	Donald LeCompte	Lloyd Smucker
James Barker	Francis Michelini	Craig Snider *(via phone)*
Sandra Dungee Glenn *(via phone)*	Jonathan Peri	Karen White
James Grandon	Mollie Phillips	A. Lee Williams
Kirk Hallett	Justin Reynolds	Larry Wittig

The minutes of the January 13, 2015 meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Grandon/Badams** motion.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Wittig welcomed the new Acting Secretary of Education, Pedro Rivera, to the Board. Mr. Wittig also announced that, after 20 years, Dr. Francis Michelini will depart Board service. Dr. Michelini was thanked for graciously continuing to serve beyond his current term until a successor was determined. Mr. Wittig announced that Dr. Nicole Carnicella was confirmed by the Senate to succeed Dr. Michelini. Finally, Chairman Wittig recognized and welcomed Senator Lloyd Smucker, new Chairman of the Senate Education Committee and, in that role, a new member of the Board.

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

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

Programs of Study

Pennsylvania continues to develop Programs of Study (POS) to ensure secondary and postsecondary students are enrolled in challenging academic and technical coursework. To date, all Perkins-allocated Postsecondary Institutions have aligned for advanced credit offerings in at least one POS area, and offer advanced credit opportunities. As of January 27, 2015, BCTE holds 523 active Postsecondary Statewide Articulation Agreements with the 28 Perkins-allocated postsecondary institutions and 12 career and technical centers offering Practical Nursing Adult

Programs. Currently there are 42 POS that the Department has developed with 1,502 POS approvals at secondary schools.

Out-of-State Statewide Articulation Agreements

BCTE staff proceeded with discussions to establish Pennsylvania Out-of-State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Statewide Articulation Agreements between Pennsylvania and the New England Culinary Institute (NECI) located in Montpelier, Vermont. The NECI contacted the Department in November 2014 expressing an interest in establishing Pennsylvania Out-of-State Career and Technical Education (CTE) Statewide Articulation Agreements. The Agreements, when finalized, would award transfer credit from Pennsylvania Secondary School POS to the aligning NECI Culinary Arts Program. Currently, NECI is reviewing the institutional food workers POS secondary competency task list; no date of agreement finalization has been established.

POS Updates and Revisions

BCTE continues to pursue the development and revision of statewide POS. Beginning in the summer of 2015, all BCTE POS developed in Phase III will undergo a secondary technical performance task list revision process. The Phase III Programs includes 13 programs.

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. The Department currently has 28 programs as a pathway at seven career and technical centers during the 2014-15 school year.

Consolidated Annual Report (CAR) Data

Annually, the Department collects, prepares, analyzes and submits data to the U. S. Department of Education (USDE), Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education as part of the contractual obligations associated with the federal Carl D. Perkins CTE Improvement Act of 2006. USDE requires states to report on eight secondary and six postsecondary performance indicators. BCTE provided the state levels of performance for both the 2013 and 2014 reporting years.

The data showed that for 2014 there was a 19.9% increase in the proportion of career and technical education concentrators proficient or advanced on the 11th grade reading test, as well as a 9.7% increase on the 11th grade math test.

Technical skill attainment has steadily improved over the last several years. Since 2011, the percentage of competent or advanced National Occupation Technical Institute test takers improved from 76.13% to 85.19% in 2014. From 2013 to 2014, there was a 1.3% increase in technical skill proficiency as reported in the CAR data.

Accreditation of the Career and Technical Centers with Adult Technical Education Programs

Ms. Burket reported that the Board and Department must petitionthe USDE in order to renew authority to accredit postsecondary career and technical education programs for another four years. A draft petition was presented to the State Board for review.

The Board is recognized by the USDE as a reliable accrediting authority, and that authority is solely for career and technical centers that offer adult technical education programs of 300 hours or longer. Students that attend accredited career and technical centers are eligible for Title IV funds.

The criteria and procedures used by USDE in designating a State agency as a reliable authority concerning the quality of public postsecondary vocational education in a State are contained in Part 603 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The draft petition outlines and provides evidence on how Pennsylvania meets the criteria.

The petition addresses four areas:

1. Functional Aspects - reviews the scope and operation of the agency, the organization of that agency and the accreditation policies and procedures that BCTE implements.

2. Responsibility and Reliability – pertains to how the agency responds to the public interest and its assurances that due process is afforded to those career and technical centers that are accredited through the Board's process.

3. Credit Hour Policies – addresses the review of CTC's institutional policies and procedures related to credit-hours and how the accreditation process addresses any deficiencies identified in this area.

4. Capacity to Foster Ethical Practices – addresses demonstration of promoting ethical standards and maintaining appropriate review of each accredited career and technical center.

Dr. Burket reported that the petition will be presented to the Board for final approved in May 2015 and that, pending Board approval, will be submitted electronically to USDE by June 4, 2015.

Upon time for discussion, Chairman Wittig asked how credits earned through programs that operate under an articulation agreement translate into college credit. Dr. Burket replied that it varies by institution.

Dr. Michelini asked if there was any formal integration of planning between technical programs at community colleges and the technical institutes at the high school level. Dr. Burket said that planning is done at the local level and there is no formal process beyond what BCTE has done with its efforts to develop POS.

Dr. Lee Williams stated that it was exciting to see that from 2013 when the indicator for reading and math was measured by the PSSA to 2014 when the measurement was done by the Keystones, great change was shown in a positive direction.

Dr. Michelini also expressed that having listened to many vocational education reports during his tenure on the Board, Dr. Burket is the best at what she does and he thanked both Dr. Burket and her staff for all their hard work.

Dr. Jay Badams asked how the 36.7% of high school seniors that obtained industry certifications aligned with previous years and if it marked an upward trend. Dr. Burket stated that there are currently a total of 1,820 approved career and technical education programs with 85% of the programs aligned. However, she would like to see 100% of the programs offering industry certifications, and will be working with schools to attain this goal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Cowell, president of the Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC) reported on an upcoming project pertaining to issues with career and technical education in Pennsylvania. He said EPLC is convening a study group, with support from foundations in Pittsburgh, to discuss governance and funding issues as well as relevancy and quality of career and technical education programs across the Commonwealth. Mr. Cowell stated that they are likely to complete a report by the end of 2015 with recommendations that may have implications for consideration by the State Board for Vocational Education. EPLC will convene two all day meetings as well as four to five conference calls lasting a few hours over the next few months.He invited the Board or individual members to join the study group.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on a **Peri/Williams** motion.

Stephanie L. Jones

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant