

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

**333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126**

March 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras (<i>via phone</i>)	James Grandon	Colleen Sheehan (<i>via phone</i>)
Carol Aichele	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Craig Snider (<i>via phone</i>)
Jay Badams	Maureen Lally-Green (<i>via phone</i>)	Lavinia Soliman
James Barker (<i>via phone</i>)	Donald LeCompte	Joshita Varshney
Nicole Carnicella	Jonathan Peri (<i>via phone</i>)	A. Lee Williams
Sandra Dungee Glenn	Mollie Phillips (<i>via phone</i>)	Larry Wittig

The minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Grandon/Badams** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of Committee Chairman James Agras, Dr. Lee Burkett, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE), provided an update on the Committee meeting held earlier in the day. Dr. Burkett reported that BCTE's final draft report on the application for re-accreditation submitted by Central Pennsylvania Institute for Science and Technology (CPI) was presented to the Committee for review. Dr. Burkett said BCTE found no compliance issues and recommended issuing accreditation to CPI. She reported that the Committee expressed no concerns with the application. Dr. Burkett said a final report on CPI will be presented to the Committee in May and, at that time, the Committee will take action on the application.

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

Dr. Burkett provided a written report to the Board on current issues and updates on activity in the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE).

PRESENTATION

Ronald Cowell, President of the Education and Policy Leadership Center (EPLC), made a presentation on a new report issued by EPLC entitled "High School Career and Technical Education: Serving Pennsylvania's Student and Workforce Needs." Mr. Cowell said the study identified inadequate attention to Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the state and school district level. He also stated that a significant image problem deters support for CTE, and

reported that CTE opportunities and improvements have been uneven across the Commonwealth. Mr. Cowell reviewed recommendations included in the report with implication for the Board.

Chairman Wittig asked if Mr. Cowell's indictment had to do with the quality of programming or the number of students that participate in CTE. Mr. Cowell responded that program quality is uneven around the state and that issues with governance and the state's funding system contribute to variance in opportunities available to students. Mr. Cowell also said there is inadequate support for school counseling and equipment.

Chairman Wittig shared that, as an Intermediate Unit #29 Board member, he has heard concern in the local community that there are not enough students pursuing CTE to meet industry needs. Mr. Cowell said there are schools with long waiting lists of students trying to enter a CTE program, while at the same time there are other areas wondering why more students are not joining CTE programs. Mr. Wittig replied that businesses bear some responsibility to make students aware of career opportunities attainable through CTE study.

Mr. Cowell shared that one of the bright spots in CTE is the large number of students that leave CTE programs with college credits. He said his work on the report found that students need to be made aware of CTE opportunities at an earlier age and that peers enrolled in CTE can serve as the best program ambassadors. Jay Badams said Erie has found success in CTE by engaging its Chamber of Commerce and manufacturer's association, establishing a K-8 career awareness program, and linking employers with schools in partnerships that provide opportunities for student visits. Lavinia Soliman commented that CTE has an image issue. Sandra Dungee Glenn commented that her K-8 charter school is in the process of identifying what meaningful career exposure looks like and asked Mr. Cowell for suggestions. Mr. Cowell responded that he could not identify specific programs, but said career exposure should start early, should include parents in the discussion, and should include site visits to career and technical centers.

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 2:43 p.m. on an **Aichele/Agras** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant