

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

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

March 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

Attending:

James Agras <i>(via phone)</i>	Sen. John Eichelberger	Colleen Sheehan
Andrew Ahr	James Grandon	Craig Snider
Carol Aichele	Pamela Gunter-Smith	Lavinia Soliman
Jay Badams	Kirk Hallett	Joshita Varshney
James Barker <i>(via phone)</i>	Shirlann Harmon	Karen Farmer White
Nathan Barrett	Maureen Lally-Green	Lee Williams
Nicole Carnicella	<i>(via phone)</i>	Larry Wittig
Sandra Dungee-Glenn	Jonathan Peri	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 12, 2017, meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Williams/Dungee-Glenn** motion.

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

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

Programs of Study

Tasks lists for three Programs of Study (Communications Technologies/Technicians & Support Services; Engineering Technologies/Technicians; Management Information Systems and Business Data Processing) underwent minor revisions per the BCTE's normal periodic review process. Dr. Burket said BCTE has provided the revisions to post-secondary partners to ensure that their programs are still aligned to the secondary technical standards.

Dr. Burket also reported that two new Programs of Study are being developed for Veterinary Technology and Rehabilitation Aide.

Finally, Dr. Burket reported that all Perkins-allocated postsecondary institutions have aligned for advanced credit offerings in at least one program of study area and offer advanced credit opportunities. BCTE holds 644 active Postsecondary Statewide Articulation Agreements with the 28 Perkins-allocated postsecondary institutions.

Consolidated Annual Report

Dr. Burket reviewed data on state performance levels from the Consolidated Annual Report submitted to the U.S. Department of Education by BCTE. Dr. Burket said the retention indicator showed a significant decrease, but noted that there was a change in the methodology related to this indicator that she believes is in part responsible for the decline.

Industry Certifications

Dr. Burket provided the Board with data on the number of industry certifications earned by CTE secondary students and reported that there was a slight increase in the number of student earning industry credentials in 2015-16. She also noted that the number of approved programs aligned to industry certifications is stable.

Dr. Burket said BCTE also looks at whether an industry certification is critical to local needs and has developed an application form on which local occupational advisory committees – comprised of employers that guide local program development – can verify whether certifications are critical to their employment needs.

Upon time for questions, Sen. Eichelberger asked how information collected by the state about job trends and workforce development needs is transferred to school districts to be used in a meaningful way to guide students toward vocational-technical education. Dr. Burket noted state-level resources in place to address this, including BCTE's strategic plan, the PA Career Zone that is aligned to real-time, local-level data from the Department of Labor & Industry (L&I), and resources to support a K-12 guidance counseling plan and student career development plans.

Chairman Wittig shared an anecdote about industry leaders in his local community that he said are clamoring for more students to pursue vocational education. Mr. Wittig said the leaders relay that students coming out of the local vocational education program are well prepared, but there just aren't enough of them. He said the leaders have requested that the local Intermediate Unit serve as a distributor of information to make students aware of the opportunities and salaries available to them through vocational education. Mr. Wittig said he personally believes it is the employer's responsibility to broadcast information about available opportunities.

Sen. Eichelberger stated that there would be value in school hosting a career day in seventh or eighth grade and having a jobs council that helps drive school curriculum.

James Barker commented that recognizing industry standards and certificates has been a positive and important step in recent years.

Dr. Burket noted that she is aware of local workforce development boards that are working with school districts to develop the type of career days that Sen. Eichelberger referenced in his earlier remarks, and said these efforts are supported through the state through joint work of BCTE and L&I.

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 8:55 a.m. on a **Peri/Dungee Glenn** motion.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Jones".

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant