

MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

September 16, 2010

The meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education was convened on Thursday, September 16, 2010, at the Administrative Offices of the Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. Public notice of the meeting was made in accordance with the Sunshine Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Mr. Joseph Torsella, Chair.

Attending:

James Agras
James Barker
Esther Bush
Corrinne Caldwell
David Collins
Connie Davis (via telephone)
Daniel Fogarty
Travis Gilbert
Sandra Dungee Glenn

Francine McNairy (via telephone)
Francis Michelini
Mollie Phillips (via telephone)
Shannon Sullivan
Joseph Torsella
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams

Absent:

Rep. Paul Clymer
Sen. Andrew Dinniman
Sheila Dow Ford
Arnold Hillman
Sen. Jeffrey Piccola
Rep. James Roebuck Jr.
Edward Sheehan, Jr.
Larry Wittig
Andrew Youstic

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Torsella opened the meeting by thanking the members of the Pittsburgh Public School Administration and the local legislative representatives, Senators Jim Ferlo, Wayne Fontana, and Senator Jay Costa, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and Representatives Dan Frankel and Jake Wheatley, Jr. He also noted the hard work by Dr. Lee Burket and her staff in putting together the Technical Institute Guidelines.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mr. James Agras, seconded by Dr. Francis Michelini, the minutes of the July 1, 2010, meeting of the State Board of Vocational Education were approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

Dr. Lee Burket, Bureau Director, reviewed the petition to the U.S. Department of Education requesting re-approval for the authority to accredit Pennsylvania post-secondary career and technical centers. In 2004, the State Board of Vocational Education was granted authority to be an accrediting agency. Pennsylvania is one of five states to receive this recognition. The petition is good for five years and is good only for career and technical centers. Board approval will be requested at the November meeting.

Academic and occupational student achievement continues to be monitored and they continue to show improvements.

There was a discussion about accrediting institutions and the cost of this service being provided by the Department of Education.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Jackie Cullen, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators, noted that other accrediting organizations can withdraw their services at any time and so it is vital that the Department of Education continue to provide this service and she spoke in support of the petition.

ACTION ITEMS

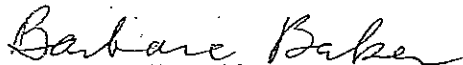
There were no action items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

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



Barbara Baker

Administrative Assistant