

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

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

November 19, 2015

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

Attending:

James Agras	James Grandon	Colleen Sheehan
Carol Aichele	Teresa Lebo	Craig Snider <i>(via phone)</i>
Jay Badams <i>(via phone)</i>	Donald LeCompte	Lavinia Soliman
James Barker	Jonathan Peri	Joshita Varshney
Nicole Carnicella	Mollie Phillips <i>(via phone)</i>	Lee Williams <i>(via phone)</i>
		Larry Wittig

The minutes of the September 17, 2015 meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Grandon/Agras** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Chair James Agras provided a report on the Vocational-Technical Education Committee meeting that was held the previous day. Mr. Agras shared that the Committee took action on three applications for accreditation of postsecondary programs at Career and Technical Centers. The Committee approved applications for re-approval of accreditation status for the York County School of Technology and Lehigh Career and Technical Institute, as recommended by the Department of Education (PDE), and recommended final approval of those applications by the State Board for Vocational Education for a five-year period.

The Committee also disapproved the application of Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center seeking initial accreditation status. PDE recommended disapproving the application based on its findings that Huntingdon remained non-compliant in 11 areas of the Guidelines for Accreditation. Mr. Agras then reviewed in detail the areas of non-compliance identified by PDE. He noted that the guidelines state that accreditation should be denied if an institution has more than two areas identified as either “not-met” or “beginning” and said Huntingdon’s application received three areas identified as “not-met” and four areas as “beginning”. He further noted that the Board had extended Huntingdon an opportunity to request a hearing on the Department’s findings, however no request for a hearing was received. As such, Mr. Agras said the Committee recommends that the Board adopt its recommendation to disapprove the application. Mr. Agras also explained that denial of accreditation status will not cause students to lose access to Title IV student loans because Huntingdon does not currently hold accreditation. He explained that Huntingdon is able to reapply for accreditation in one year

and said administrators from the CTC relayed to PDE that they believe one year will be sufficient to take the steps necessary to correct the identified areas of non-compliance.

Mr. Agras thanked Dr. Burket and her staff for their efforts in reviewing and evaluating the applications. Dr. Burket shared that Huntingdon recently hired an individual who participated in the re-accreditation visit at Central Pennsylvania Science and Technology CTC, which she felt would help Huntingdon as it moves forward.

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

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

New Workshops

Dr. Burket said BCTE added two new workshops to the services it provides to career and technical education providers based on what it has heard from the field about its needs. A one-day workshop on 21st Century Skills was presented in collaboration with the Southern Regional Education Board. The workshop addressed the Learning and Innovation Skills identified by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills: creativity and innovation; critical thinking and problem solving; and communication and collaboration. Participants looked at how they are assessing these skills in their current programs and identified ways to incorporate additional 21st century skills as well as how to assess them. Dr. Burket said BCTE will follow-up with the participants to determine if a one-day workshop was sufficient or if it would be useful to add follow-up coaching visits to the program if it is re-designed as an offering again next year.

Dr. Burket said BCTE also hosted six regional technical assistance workshops for school districts that offer approved Career and Technical Education (CTE). She said the workshops were developed as a result of discussion at prior State Board meetings. The workshops were designed to assist districts with PIMS reporting requirements for CTE data, as well as to help districts better understand state standards and regulations pertaining to CTE. Further, Dr. Burket said school districts that offer CTE are not performing as well on the NOCTI as Career and Technical Centers and the workshops were used to provide information to school districts regarding roles and responsibilities regarding the NOCTI.

Civil Rights Activities

Dr. Burket provided an update on BCTE's responsibility to conduct civil rights reviews of entities that receive Perkins funding to support CTE programs to measure compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. She said BCTE works closely with the U.S. Office for Civil Rights to identify the sub-recipients visited annually for review. Dr. Burket said the most common findings from such visits pertain to admission policies that are not verbatim in meeting the expectations of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights and physical elements of buildings that are out of compliance (signage, water fountain height, slope of ramps). Dr. Burket said BCTE works with entities to correct any issues that are identified.

Programs of Study Articulated Credits Earned

Dr. Burket shared new information with the Board on the number of articulated credits earned by students through Programs of Study (POS). Students enrolled in approved POS are able to earn college credit for their postsecondary coursework. Dr. Burket said this is the second year that data was able to be collected. In 2014-15, 38 students were awarded college credit at a total of 237 credits earned. Dr. Burket estimated the total dollar value of those credits at \$65,670 based on the average cost of tuition.

Adult Accreditation

The U.S. Department of Education (USDE) will hold a hearing on December 16, 2015 on the Board's petition to extend its authority to conduct accreditation of a career and technical centers' adult technical programs of 300 hours or greater. Dr. Burket said BCTE submitted the petition in June 2015 and that this was the first year USDE did not have any concerns with the application. Mr. Agras asked whether USDE would grant re-approval for five years. Dr. Burket confirmed that Mr. Agras was correct.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

APPLICATION OF YORK COUNTY SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY SEEKING RE-ACCREDITATION

James Agras made a motion to approve the application of York County School of Technology and grant re-accreditation for a five-year period as recommended by the Department of Education and the Vocational-Technical Education Committee. The motion was seconded by James Grandon.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

APPLICATION OF LEHIGH CAREER AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE SEEKING RE-ACCREDITATION

James Agras made a motion to approve the application of Lehigh Career and Technical Institute and grant re-accreditation for a five-year period as recommended by the Department of Education and the Vocational-Technical Education Committee. The motion was seconded by James Grandon.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

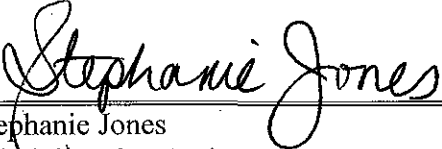
APPLICATION OF HUNTINGDON COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER SEEKING ACCREDITATION

James Agras made a motion to disapprove the application for accreditation of Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center as recommended by the Department of Education and the Vocational-Technical Education Committee. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Peri.

VOTE: All were in favor as indicated by unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. on a Grandon/Agras motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant