

**MINUTES  
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

**333 Market Street | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17126  
November 9, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Chairman Larry Wittig.

**Attending:**

James Agras *(via phone)*  
Andrew Ahr  
Carol Aichele  
James Barker  
Nicole Carnicella  
Sandra Dungee Glenn

John Eichelberger  
James Grandon  
Pamela Gunter-Smith  
*(via phone)*  
Kirk Hallett  
Shirlann Harmon

Maureen Lally-Green  
*(via phone)*  
Jonathan Peri  
Craig Snider  
Karen Farmer White  
Larry Wittig

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 6, 2017, meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Grandon/Peri** 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.

**Regional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Non-traditional Activities**

Bloomsburg University submitted a proposal to BCTE under the direction of Dr. Carol Adukaitis, Director, Educational Pathways Program, for funding to recruit urban and rural middle school students to Non-traditional STEM Career Pathways at two sites: Bethlehem Area Vocational Technical School and Columbia-Montour AVTS. These schools held their academies in May 2017 and focused on high-priority occupations that articulate from their school to their local community college through the PDE Students Occupationally and Academically Ready Program (SOAR). Both sites network with area postsecondary 2-year and 4-year institutions, namely, Luzerne and Northampton Area Community Colleges, respectively, and Bloomsburg University. Information on academic preparation for career pathways was presented during the academies.

**Civil Rights Activities**

The U.S. Office for Civil Rights (OCR) mandates that each state develop a review process to measure the compliance of publicly-funded Career and Technical Education (CTE)

programs with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race, color and national origin), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, amended in 1990 (disability).

Vocational Education Guidelines explain the civil rights responsibilities of recipients of federal assistance that offered or administered CTE programs. Local Education Agencies are targeted for review based on high special education enrollments, low non-traditional enrollments, disparity in enrollment per race, number of programs, and/or date of last review. Annually, 2.5% of the 179 secondary sub-recipients and 30 postsecondary sub-recipients must be reviewed. Additionally, per the approved targeting plan, every other year a school in Pittsburgh or Philadelphia is reviewed. Over the past four years, just one school had zero compliance issues to be addressed because of these reviews.

### **Interagency Meeting with Department of Corrections**

Dr. Burket shared that BCTE met with advisors from the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC) in September and discussed updates in the DOC Improved Re-entry Education Grant. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the DOC a \$1 million Improved Re-entry Education Grant. The three-year grant will end in September 2018. The DOC's goal is to update its educational programs throughout the Commonwealth as outlined in the Perkins Act of 2006.

BCTE and the DOC discussed the process that DOC might follow to create well-defined CTE programs aligned to program assessments. Current SOAR programs articulation efforts and course equivalencies were explained, as well as the student documentation required for awarding postsecondary credit.

### **Adult Accreditation**

Annual Accreditation Reports were due to BCTE by August 31. BCTE staff currently are reviewing the reports for any red flags that might result in a site review of an institution. In addition, BCTE continues to work with the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) on a corrective action plan to address the deficiencies that resulted in LCCTC receiving one year of probationary accreditation. BCTE will provide an update to the Board on LCCTC in January 2018. Finally, the Schuylkill Technology Center will receive a re-accreditation visit during the summer of 2018.

### **Nurse Aide Training Programs (NATCEP)**

In accordance with federal regulations, NATCEPs may not be granted approval for longer than two years. To ensure compliance with this and other federal regulations and state statutes, nurse aid training programs are scheduled for on-site compliance reviews at least once within a two-year period. Between August 1 to September 30, 2017, 16 nurse aide training programs were reviewed and approved. Twenty-six nurse aide training programs are scheduled to participate in compliance reviews during the January-March 2018 monitoring cycle.

## **Career Pathways K-12**

The BCTE continues to work with Career and Technical Education Centers (CTC) in establishing career pathways for all students. The goal of this work is to help establish ongoing Pathway Partnerships in which the local CTC is a key organizing partner. By the end of 2017-2018, each Partnership will have an active partnership management agreement or Memorandum of Understanding to guide its collaborative activities. Dr. Burket also reviewed the indicators by which progress of the partnerships is measured.

Upon time for discussion, Chairman Larry Wittig asked Dr. Burket if the reason for BCTE's visit to Schuylkill Technology Center would be to re-accredit the institution. Dr. Burket confirmed that the visit will be for a re-accreditation evaluation. Chairman Wittig also asked about how students are selected to participate in the DOC's program. Dr. Burket said that is still in the conceptual stage, and that the program appears to hold a lot of promise.

Sandra Dungee Glenn asked Dr. Burket to provide a list of the approved Career Pathways Partnerships. Dr. Burket said she would remit the request information through Board staff.

## **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 8:56 a.m. on an **Agras/Grandon** motion.



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Stephanie Jones  
Administrative Assistant