

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

January 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Karen Farmer White.

Attending:

James Agras (*via phone*)
Carol Aichele
James Barker (*via phone*)
Nathan Barrett
Jamie Bracey-Green
Nicole Carnicella

Caroline DeWitt
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Donald Fey
Pamela Gunter-Smith
Kirk Hallett
Jeffrey Keeling

Jonathan Peri
Arynn Pratt
Ashley Svec
Karen Farmer White
A. Lee Williams (*via phone*)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 15, 2018, meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on an **Peri/Dungee Glenn** motion.

COMMITTEE REPORT
VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Dr. Lee Burket, Director of the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE), reported on the January 9 meeting of the Vocational Technical Education Committee during which the Committee took action on Schuylkill Technology Center's (STC) application for accreditation. Dr. Burket reviewed the process that BCTE and the Institutional Accreditation Advisory Group (IAAG) took in reviewing STC's application and developing a recommendation on it for the Board's consideration. She noted that the Board granted STC the opportunity to appeal the findings in a draft final report on its application and said the institution did not pursue an appeal.

Dr. Burket said the Committee recommended granting STC probationary accreditation for one-year subject to stipulations. Those stipulations set forth that, during the probationary period, STC must take action to correct its areas of noncompliance with accreditation guidelines, STC must comply with requested actions of the Department of Education per accreditation guidelines, STC must participate in monthly monitorings by the BCTE, and the BCTE must provide the Board with an interim report on those monitorings in six months.

Kirk Hallett asked how many students are currently in STC, and Dr. Burket responded that approximately 70 students are affected. Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green asked if STC would be able to come into compliance with accreditation guidelines. Dr. Burket stated that there is a new

administration in place at STC and she believes they will work to meet the requirements for full accreditation over the next year.

Dr. Burket also reported that the BCTE made modifications to two sections of the Pennsylvania Postsecondary Vocational Education Accreditation Guidelines to help clarify and streamline the accreditation process.

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

Dr. Burket provided updates to the Board on the following topics:

Perkins V State Transition Plan

Pennsylvania will submit a one-year Perkins transition plan followed by a four-year Perkins State Plan. The plan will outline the current activities that will occur during the transition year. As the State Board is the entity authorized to administer the federal grant, the Board will be asked to review the transition plan and provide input and edits prior to its March 2019 Board meeting. Once the plan is approved by the Board, it will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.

The transition plan will address the following required elements: Program Administration and Implementation, Fiscal Responsibility, Assurances, Certifications and Other Forms, and Budget. The transition plan will not include Plan Development and Coordination for Accountability for Results, but all elements must be addressed in the four-year State Plan.

The Transition Plan is due to the U.S. Department of Education in April 2019. The Department's goal then is to present a draft four-year state plan to the Board for review in January 2020 Board and present a final four-year plan to the Board for action in March 2020.

Ms. Farmer White asked when the last Perkins state plan was approved. Dr. Burket replied that the Perkins IV Plan was adopted in 2008 and noted that Perkins IV was extended by the U.S. Department of Education for a long time. Sandra Dungee Glenn asked if there would be major changes to the Perkins Plan. Dr. Burket shared that there will be increased focus on career guidance, especially at the secondary level.

Upon time for discussion, Dr. Bracey-Green asked whether PAsmart grants would impact Career and Technical Education (CTE) at a secondary level and would track students in secondary CTE programs into post-secondary opportunities for apprenticeships and other opportunities for CTE students. Dr. Burket said she would work with the Department to compile data responsive to this request by the Board's next meeting in March.

Ms. Dungee Glenn raised an issue presented to her by a technology entrepreneur and technology educator. She relayed that educators are left in a quandry when CTE pathways are focused on certifications, while industries hiring in certain computer science fields are looking for core competencies rather than certifications. She asked the Department to consider whether some measure other than certifications should be employed to demonstrate whether students

have achieved what is expected of them coming out of these computer science programs and to recognize educators for helping students achieve. Dr. Bracey-Green offered that, in some cases, there is a deviation between existing certifications and what is considered an industry standard. Dr. Bracey-Green said the jury is still out on whether additional certifications are needed to fill this gap. Rather, she said industry looks to project-based portfolios when evaluating candidates for employment in these fields and that digital portfolios are a good way to document a student's progression in software development.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

Application for Accreditation of Schuylkill Technology Center

A motion to grant probationary accreditation of the postsecondary programs at Schuylkill Technology Center for a one-year period, subject to stipulations, was made by Nicole Carnicella. The motion set forth the following conditions for action that must occur during the probationary period: 1) the institution must act to correct all areas of non-compliance with accreditation standards as identified in the Department of Education's Final Report on Schuylkill's application for accreditation; 2) the institution must comply with actions requested by the Department of Education, per Chapter 10 of the Accreditation Guidelines for Pennsylvania Public Postsecondary Vocational Education, to bring the institution into compliance with accreditation standards, 3) the Department of Education must conduct monthly monitorings of Schuylkill Technology Center, and 4) the Department must provide an interim report to the Board in six months on the status of these monitorings. The motion was seconded by James Agras.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 a.m. on a **Peri/Hallett** motion.



Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant