

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

333 Market Street | 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

March 14, 2019

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

Attending:

James Agras (*via phone*)

Carol Aichele

Nathan Barrett

Jamie Bracey-Green

Nicole Carnicella

Sandra Dungee Glenn (*via phone*)

Donald Fey

Pamela Gunter-Smith

Kirk Hallett

Jeffrey Keeling

Maureen Lally-Green (*via phone*)

Jonathan Peri

Arynn Pratt

Ashley Svec

Karen Farmer White

A. Lee Williams

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 10, 2019, meeting of the State Board for Vocational Education were approved on a **Williams/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), provided updates to the Board on the following topics.

Accreditation of Career and Technical Centers with Adult Technical Education Programs

Dr. Burket noted that the State Board for Vocational Education must submit a petition for renewal of its federally-recognized status as an accreditor of adult technical education programs by June 2019.

Dr. Jamie Bracey-Green asked how career and technical centers (CTCs) accredited by the Board are distributed across the Commonwealth and whether additional CTCs would be proposed in the future. Dr. Burket reviewed the geographic distribution of current CTCs. She noted that the accreditation process is voluntary and that other CTCs are accredited by either Middle States or the Council on Occupational Education. Dr. Burket said she would prepare information on the accreditations held by CTCs for Dr. Bracey-Green.

Perkins Transition Plan/State Plan

Dr. Burket reported that the BCTE is working to develop a one-year Perkins V Transition Plan that will be submitted to the Board for review and approval at the Board's next meeting.

She further noted that a Perkins State Plan also is in development. The four-year State Plan is due to the U.S. Department of Education by April 2020, unless the state decides to submit a combined Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act Plan. If a combined plan is submitted, it will be due in March 2020. Dr. Burket said the BCTE will convene a state planning committee to provide input on the plan and noted that the first planning meeting would be held later in the month.

Dr. Bracey-Green requested a calendar for future planning meetings.

PAsmart

Julie Kane, the Department of Education's Policy Director, provided an update on Governor Wolf's PAsmart initiative. Ms. Kane shared that the Governor announced \$20 million in grants to bring high-quality Computer Science and STEM education to classrooms, along with professional development for teachers. With this commitment, Ms. Kane said Pennsylvania now ranks second in the country for investments in K-12 STEM and computer science. Ms. Kane provided an overview of the two grant types awarded under the initiative – Targeted Grants and Advancing Grants – and the type of efforts that will be funded by each grant type.

Dr. Bracey-Green shared her enthusiasm for the PAsmart effort and said excitement among schools that received PAsmart grants is palpable. Dr. Bracey-Green asked if data collected on the grant program will transfer into support for certification in Computer Science as a way of holding onto teachers the state is investing in now. Pedro Rivera, Secretary of Education, responded that the Department is invested in improving and diversifying the teacher pipeline and is working on leadership development issues related to recruitment and retention of teachers.

Lee Williams asked Ms. Kane to elaborate on educator professional development that will be supported through PAsmart to ensure that technology that is purchased through the grants is used effectively in classrooms. Ms. Williams also asked Ms. Kane to elaborate on the lending libraries for computer science that will be supported through PAsmart. Ms. Kane said that both technology and professional development in its use will be available to schools through the lending library in recognition that the cost for all schools to obtain certain equipment is prohibitive and that educators need support in how and why to integrate certain technology in instruction.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEM

There were no action items.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 a.m. on a **Williams/Agras** motion.

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

Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant