

**Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
General Advisory Council for  
Technical and Career Education  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, April 28, 2009  
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Advanced Technology Center  
Forum**

***Members Present:*** Nicki Adams, Dan Bell, Barbara Brinson, Jane Brooks, Chris Davidson, Jim DeBellis, Cameron Dye, Robert Gerling, Robert Hall, Tammy Jaxtheimer, Brenda Sedlacek, Armand Taylor, and Amy Wisilosky

***Members Absent:*** Judy Begland, Jim Cervera, Cory Gray, Reza Hashampour, Phil Reed, Prescott Sherrod, Tom Smith, and Kevin Will

***Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Present:*** Ann Marie Garvey, Patrick Konopnicki, John Ledgerwood, Linda Love, Sarah Martin, Alveta Mitchell, Daniel Smith, Linda Spruill, Dave Swanger, and Mike Taylor

***Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Absent:*** Michael Bolton, Rhonda Doak, and Robert Mitchell

***Special Guest:*** Megan Robinson from Opportunity Inc.

**Call to Order**

Jerry Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

**Old Business**

***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of the February 17, 2009, meeting were approved as recorded.

***Governor's Exemplary Standards***

Linda Love provided members with a schedule of the review training sessions. There will be one afternoon session and one morning session to train new reviewers and to update veteran reviewers prior to the site visits. Training sessions will be conducted this week at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC), and Technical and Career Education (TCE) staff members will facilitate the review sessions. Salem High School has requested deferment for review until next year. Linda Love thanked the members who are volunteering significant time to help the TCE office in this review process.

Patrick Konopnicki updated members regarding the nomination of the Tech Center's Automotive Technology program for the Governor's Exemplary Standards Award. The program was reviewed by a team from Richmond and made it through the first round of the process. There are three teams being reviewed. The winning program will receive a \$5,000 cash award, personal congratulations from Governor Kaine, and the right to display the Governor's Exemplary Standards flag. The Tech Center submitted its entry electronically, and because of our electronic submission, all future entries will be required to submit electronically. Notification of status will come in mid-May.

### ***Technical and Career Education End of the Year Ceremony***

Patrick Konopnicki explained to the members that the annual TCE End of the Year ceremony will be streamlined this year. The middle school and high school teachers of the year, as well as the guidance counselor of the year, will be recognized at a luncheon in June. Students of the Year from various disciplines will be recognized at their school's awards assembly. The high school with the most Workplace Readiness Skills certifications will be recognized at the luncheon as well.

There was no further old business.

### **New Business**

#### ***Virginia Career and Technical Education Vision Focus Groups***

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has requested that career and technical education (CTE) administrators in the commonwealth develop a vision for CTE. There are eight regions throughout the state. We are in Region II. At the Region II meeting in April, the General Advisory Council was represented by Judy Begland, Sarah Martin, Phil Reed, Jerry Stewart, and Amy Wisilosky. Attendance was quite large and almost every school division in Region II was represented. It was a productive meeting, and a great deal of information was shared. The information that was gathered will be used to develop a vision statement.

#### ***Virginia Beach Robotics Competition***

In prior meetings this year, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) were discussed at length. Patrick Konopnicki reported to the members that addressing this in grades K-12, as well as post-secondary, is very important. In keeping with this idea, Kevin Pace, electronics teacher at the Technical and Career Education Center, developed a local robotics competition. Electronics students from Virginia Beach high schools have followed specifications to design their robots, and the final competition is being held today in the Advanced Technology Center. Coincidentally, the Robotic Ventures group is meeting at the Advanced Technology Center, and they will award the finalists trophies as part of their meeting.

#### ***Other Information***

- Member Bob Hall voiced his concern that technical and career education programs are not well advertised to the general public. Other members voiced their opinions that our programs do get media coverage when warranted. Patrick Konopnicki pointed out that the automotive program's status in the Governor's Exemplary Standards competition will be thoroughly covered.
- Barbara Brinson reported to members that as a result of the federal stimulus package, the Youth Opportunities office will offer a summer youth employment program this summer. The ages of

the youth range from 14 to 24. She requested that members call her for further information or if they are in a position to offer a young person a summer job.

- Linda Spruill explained to members that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Tallwood High School hosted a child abuse forum which was organized by Tallwood teachers and Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters. The target audience was Parenting and Child Development students and Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow students. The students received an overview from investigative social workers, doctors, and detectives on how to spot abuse. The plan is to expand this program next year.
- The C-CAP competition was held a month ago, and the awards breakfast will take place tomorrow at Westminster Canterbury. Tonight, *Pressure Cooker*, a video documentary by Richard Graussman, founder of C-CAP, will be shown in the Forum at the Advanced Technology Center.
- David Swanger reported that WAVY TV 10 contacted him through the Office of Media and Communications. They are planning a weekly spot on healthy cooking and would like the opportunity to come to the Tech Center to do one of the segments. He will have additional information to report at the next meeting.

This was the final meeting of the current school year. The next meeting will be in September or October. Members will be notified by mail.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m. so members could attend the robotics competition.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Wargo  
Administrative Office Associate  
Office of Technical and Career Education