

**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**General Advisory Council for**  
**Technical and Career Education**  
**Advanced Technology Center**  
**Tuesday, October 27, 2009**  
**12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.**

***Members Present:*** Jane Brooks, Chris Davidson, Robert Gerling, Cory Gray, Tammy Jaxtheimer, Phil Reed, Jerry Stewart, Armand Taylor, and Kevin Will

***Members Absent:*** Nicki Adams, Judy Begland, Dan Bell, Barbara Brinson, Jim Cervera, Jim DeBellis, Cameron Dye, Robert Hall, Reza Hashampour, Prescott Sherrod, Tom Smith, and Amy Wisilosky

***Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Present:*** Rhonda Doak, Ann Marie Garvey, John Ledgerwood, Patrick Konopnicki, Sarah Martin, Daniel Smith, Linda Spruill, and Mike Taylor

***Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Absent:*** Alveta Mitchell, Robert Mitchell, and David Swanger

***Special Guests:*** Ms. Andrea Harrell for Judy Begland – Opportunity Inc.  
Dr. Jim Merrill, Superintendent, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

**Call to Order**

Jerry Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m. For the benefit of our special guests and as this was the first meeting of the current school year, members were asked to introduce themselves.

**Old Business**

The minutes of the April 28 meeting were approved as recorded.

**New Business**

***2008-09 Virginia Beach City Public Schools Credentialing***

Daniel Smith provided the members with the 2008-2009 Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) Industry Credentialing Fact Sheet. During the 2009 school year, student credentials increased by 52 from the previous year for a total of 4,133. The fact sheet includes information regarding workplace readiness skills certifications as well as industry credentialing data by Technical and Career Education program area. This school division continues to be an industry credentialing leader in the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to the Virginia Department of Education, of the 316 schools in Virginia reporting earned industry credentials, 9 of the top 25 high schools were from VBCPS. Patrick Konopnicki has been meeting with high school principals, and he provides each principal with a credentialing binder. Principals and Patrick Konopnicki go over their school's industry credentials, and frequently use this information to benchmark with other schools in the division. Virginia Beach City Public Schools offers 92 different assessments.

### ***2009 Exemplary Standards Review/Recap***

Jerry Stewart reminded members of the site reviews done during spring of the previous school year. He stated that the associated reviews and site visits are some of the more important missions that the advisory council undertakes. Patrick Konopnicki reported that Governor Kaine has embraced the Exemplary Standards program, and last year, the automotive services technology program at the Tech Center was one of three state programs receiving exemplary recognition at the state level. We will not have a program nominated for state competition this year but continue to do the exemplary process at the local level. Landstown High School teachers are undergoing the process this year, and because they are using the Taskstream program, all information will be available electronically. There will be no notebooks to review, and it will be easier for reviewers to go through the data.

### ***Commission on Youth Advisory Group on Career and Technical Education***

The General Assembly requested input for the Commission on Youth study. John Ledgerwood reported that this is a bi-partisan commission. In the fall of 2009, VBCPS hosted a regional meeting in Virginia Beach. The committee members indicated that they are hearing from other school divisions across the state, and it appears that they will be addressing the Workplace Readiness Skills initiative. Schools will be able to see how they rank in comparison to other schools across the state, and this will enable the pooling and sharing of information. Upon completion of the final report, the General Advisory Council will be briefed.

### ***Sustainability as 14<sup>th</sup> VBCPS Workplace Readiness Skill***

Sustainability is the 14<sup>th</sup> VBCPS Workplace Readiness Skill. Patrick Konopnicki distributed the book, *Your Role in the Green Environment*, to members. The author of the book is a professor at Virginia Tech and uses the publication with undergraduates as well as graduate students. This book will be used as a resource piece for 25 technical and career education teacher volunteers. Members were shown a PowerPoint going through the definitions of sustainability, and how the social, environmental, and economic pillars all interact with one another. Sustainability skills are needed by all. Robert Gerling stated that most contractors have looked on sustainability as a hassle until they began to understand that it can be cost effective. One of the examples he gave was that in the past, old asphalt used to be taken to the dump, and new stone was brought in from Richmond, costing more money in fuel and transport dollars. Now, it is recrushed and used. Sustainability can help economically as well as save the planet. It doesn't cost a lot of money, but it requires a paradigm shift. Jane Brooks reported that she recently completed reviewing grants submitted to the Virginia Beach Education Foundation, and many of the entries submitted were sustainability projects. Patrick Konopnicki closed his presentation by telling the members that our testing agency, National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), is adding a section on sustainability to the Workplace Readiness Skills test, so we will have more data to share next year.

### ***Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE) Issues and Solutions***

John Ledgerwood distributed the *Issues and Solutions* brochure to the members. Each year the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (VACTE) identifies areas to be addressed statewide through the General Assembly. The policy issues in brief for this year are:

- VACTE supports increased efforts by Virginia’s colleges and universities to implement and, where they already exist, strengthen teacher preparation programs in career and technical education.
- VACTE supports meaningful industry-recognized standards, assessments, and credentials for career and technical education programs, staff, and students.
- VACTE supports continued integration of secondary and postsecondary career and technical education curriculum with the Standards of Learning and postsecondary academic requirements, while placing particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- VACTE supports continued priority funding for career and technical education classroom lab equipment and program improvement in order to prepare students for a competitive workforce and further education.

### ***Other Business***

Jerry Stewart serves on the Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education. In response to Sarah Martin’s request for an update, Jerry stated that the past year was devoted to developing a strategic plan which the committee did not have in place when Jerry became a member. The plan is now being implemented, and members are beginning to see action on some issues. The group identified that they have very little or no connection to other advisory councils across the state. The state council will make a concerted effort to get in touch with localities. Sarah requested that we keep this as an agenda item so we can see how our local council is intertwined with the state council. Jerry Stewart agreed to provide an update at each meeting.

Rhonda Doak met with Old Dominion University (ODU) personnel on the new proposed Economics and Financial Management objectives that will be required. We are partnering with ODU on how to train our teachers for these courses. The State Board of Education will approve this course in November. We plan for the new course to be on the information agenda at the December 15 meeting of the City of Virginia Beach School Board.

There was no further business. Jerry Stewart adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

The date of the next meeting is December 15 at the Tech Center on North Landing Road. Members will be notified by mail.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Wargo  
Administrative Office Associate  
Office of Technical and Career Education