

**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**General Advisory Council for**  
**Technical and Career Education**  
**Technical and Career Educational Center**  
**Tuesday, April 22, 2008**  
**12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.**

***Members Present:*** Jim Cervera, Robert Gerling, Cory Gray, Bob Hall, Tammy Jaxtheimer, Kevin Will for Shannon Kane, Phil Reed, Jerry Stewart, Armand Taylor, and Amy Wisilosky

***Members Absent:*** Nicki Adams Judy Begland, Barbara Brinson, Jane Brooks, Chris Davidson, Jim DeBellis, Cameron Dye, Nick DiMaggio, Reza Hashampour, John Keeler, Joel Rubin, Brenda Sedlacek, and Prescott Sherrod

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

***Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Absent:*** Michael Bolton, Rhonda Doak, and Ann Marie Garvey

***Special Guests:*** Dan Bell

**Call to Order**

Jerry Stewart called the meeting to order at 12: 25 p.m.

**Old Business**

The minutes of the February 26 meeting were approved as recorded.

***Workplace Readiness Skills Champion***

At the last GAC meeting, members suggested ways to make the community aware of the Workplace Readiness Skills' (WRS) initiative. Member Amy Wisilosky was asked to be the point person to focus on increasing community awareness of workplace readiness skills. With great enthusiasm, she reported to the council on the many ways she has used to increase public awareness. Whenever she speaks to a group, the subject is always mentioned. She suggested that the council consider forming a speakers' bureau, and members who volunteer for this bureau, would attend school open houses and other school-system sponsored functions with a supply of posters and brochures on workplace readiness skills. It is important to engage guidance counselors in spreading this initiative as well. There are many opportunities for advertising WRS, and members were encouraged to be aware of such opportunities.

There was no further old business.

## **New Business**

### ***VBCPS Strategic Plan & Town Meetings***

Compass to 2015 – A Strategic Plan for Student Success is a strategic planning process designed to engage the community in reshaping the school district’s six-year strategic plan. A Compass to 2015 Town Hall Meeting was held on April 15. Twenty-two issues regarding education were identified, and attendees were asked to rank them in order of importance and add to the list, if necessary. The Technical and Career Education’s (TCE) Workplace Readiness Skills initiative was one of the related issues, and ranked very high on the scale. It is imperative that educators develop skills for students and assess those skills for use in a global economy. It is apparent that there is a definite need to expand TCE programs.

### ***2008 Carl Perkins***

Sarah Martin gave an overview of the Carl Perkins grant to the new members, and reported that there is not much change in the Perkins budget this year. There are no new performance measures. Perkins guidelines for spending money are strict and must be followed. There are restricted and permissive categories. Perkins dollars are used for conferences, student winners of local competition to attend state and national competitions, and a very large part of the grant is spent on equipment. There is no local equipment money. All program areas benefit from Perkins monies. Robert Hall motioned to approve the Carl Perkins budget; Phil Reed seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The approved plan will now be presented to the School Board.

### ***VBCPS Web Site***

The Office of Technical and Career Education (TCE) is continuously striving to improve our Web site. It now offers a better visual presentation of what TCE does, as well as information regarding the Advanced Technology Center (ATC) and the Technical and Career Education Center (Tech Center) programs. The site can be accessed through a link on the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Web site, VBSchools.com. The link is Career and Technical Education/ATC/VB Tech Center. Members were asked to access the site and send any suggestions or comments via email to Dr. Konopnicki or Jerry Stewart.

### ***Governor’s Exemplary Standards Award Nomination***

Several years ago, the Office of Technical and Career Education implemented Exemplary Standards as a way of gauging the effectiveness of our programs. We have seven programs identified as *exemplary*, among them, the automotive technology program at the Tech Center. Later this year, Governor Kaine, who has encouraged the use of exemplary standards practices throughout the state, will present the first Exemplary Standards Award. A \$5,000 honorarium comes with the award. Robert Hall made a motion to submit the Automotive Services program for the Governor’s award. Armand Taylor seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### ***Exemplary Standards Reviews***

The Exemplary Standard Review teams will be trained on April 28 and April 29. There are only two schools undergoing the Exemplary Standards review process this year –Green Run high school and First Colonial high school. The site visits to those schools will be May 1 and May 9 respectively.

### ***TCE Awards Celebration***

The TCE Awards celebration will be held on Thursday, May 8, in the theater and atrium of the Advanced Technology Center. The ceremony will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the theater with the recognition ceremony. Refreshments will follow in the atrium.

### ***New Member Nominations***

Jerry Stewart recognized Dan Bell and Kevin Will as two gentlemen who have attended several GAC meetings, and have expressed an interest in membership. Robert Hall moved to put their names in nomination; Robert Gerling seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The names and biographies of the proposed members will be sent to Dr. Merrill for approval.

### ***Other Business***

- On April 9, an Early Childhood Education job fair was held in the theater at the Advanced Technology Center. There were 25 childcare providers represented, who began the evening with a panel discussion. This job fair was designed for high school students in the parenting and child development and early childhood education classes, as well as Tidewater Community College students interested in pursuing a career in early child care. Following the panel discussion, students had an opportunity to speak directly with the representatives
- A forum for future teachers was held at Tallwood high school on April 16. Students currently in the Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow (VTfT) program, as well as prospective students were invited to attend. The students had an opportunity to participate in a panel discussion on teaching as a profession conducted by six teachers of the year.
- C-CAP students did well in competition this year. Over \$300,000 in scholarships was awarded and 60% of that went to Virginia Beach City Public Schools' students.
- Chef Reed, Chef Papazoglu, and the culinary students were thanked for the delicious meal they prepared and served to the GAC members
- The next meeting will be in late September or October and members will be notified by mail

There was no further business and Jerry Stewart adjourned the meeting at 1:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Wargo