

VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
General Advisory Council for
Technical and Career Education
Advanced Technology Center
Wednesday, December 19, 2007
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Nicki Adams, Barbara Brinson, Jane Brooks, Chris Davidson, Jim DeBellis, Cameron Dye, Robert Gerling, Robert Hall, Reza Hashampour, Tammy Jaxtheimer, Shannon Kane, Jerry Stewart, and Amy Wisilosky

Members Absent: Judy Begland, Jim Cervera, Nick DiMaggio, David Fritsch, John Keeler Joel Rubin, and Armand Taylor

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

Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Absent: Michael Bolton, Ann Marie Garvey, Alveta Sutton, and David Swanger

Special Guests: Dr. James Merrill, division superintendent, scholarship recipients, their families, and school administrators, Dan Bell and Jay Lucado from Canon

Call to Order

Jerry Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:29 p.m. and welcomed guests.

Old Business

The minutes of the October 9 meeting were approved as recorded.

TCE Certification Update

A representative from Governor Kaine's office contacted Dr. Konopnicki to tell him that Exemplary Standards will be initiated statewide in February, and that the Governor plans to honor an award winner each year at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Excellence Luncheon. Exemplary Standards have been applied to technical and career education programs in Virginia Beach high schools and two centers during the last five years. One program, the automotive program at the Tech Center, which has been identified as exemplary locally, will be submitted for the Governor's award.

Also as an update, next year, all high schools in the commonwealth will have to report the number of "completers" as part of their school's report card. A completer is a student who completes a two-year sequence of courses. Dr. Konopnicki provided the members with a chart showing the number of verified credit certifications for each high school. Of the 291 high schools reporting Career and Technical Education certification data, Virginia Beach City Public Schools had eight high schools in the top 20. Fairfax, the school division with whom we benchmark, had only four. Members were asked to contact the Office of Technical and Career Education for this information if they need additional handouts.

2007 Virtual Enterprise Scholarship Recognition

Last year, GAC member and local businessman, Reza Hashampour, issued a challenge to Virtual Enterprise teams from First Colonial and Cox high schools – Glowball Enterprises and Sac Shack. These teams placed first and second respectively in Virginia State Virtual Enterprise Competition last spring. The challenge was for the students to come up with a business proposal from an idea he presented with plans to implement and execute the proposal. The five members of the winning team would receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the college or university at which they were accepted. Mr. Hashampour was impressed with the proposals from both teams and decided to award \$1,000 to each member of the Glowball Enterprises team and \$500 to each member of the Sac Shack team. Superintendent James Merrill, along with Rhonda Doak, Business and Information Education coordinator, and Reza Hashampour presented the students with their certificates, while family members and school administrators applauded the students' accomplishments. Prior to the distribution of certificates, Dr. Merrill thanked the GAC and the Virginia Beach Economic Development for their strong partnership, and praised the convergence of the efforts of staff, parents, and administrators who supported the students' endeavors.

There was no further old business.

New Business

Hampton Roads Business Education Collaborative

Dr. Konopnicki invited Dan Bell from Canon to present to the General Advisory Council regarding a partnership idea he has developed. Employers are faced with the challenge of finding qualified workers. The concept for his program is how students can be prepared early in their high school careers so that a deeper and more qualified pool of future employees can be created. He hopes to combine the resources of Opportunity Inc., Junior Achievement and other similar organizations and partnering with local school districts. This created network will reinforce workplace readiness skills, and offer job shadowing, internships and mentoring to focus students to make high school studies more applicable to the choices they make regarding college and careers. Members were invited to contact Mr. Bell if they were interested in participating in his project. His email address is dbell@cits.canon.com.

New Member Nominations

Prescott Sherrod and Cory Gray were nominated for membership in the General Advisory Council by Robert Gerling. Amy Wisilosky seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Their names and biographies will be submitted to Dr. Merrill for approval.

Member Jane Brooks told the members that the state PTA unanimously passed a motion to support career and technical education from kindergarten throughout their school careers.

Member Tammy Jaxtheimer told members that the CCAP Culinary Salon and Culinary Showdown were to be held in January and she would update members on results at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 26, 2008. Members will receive notification by mail.

There was no further business and Jerry Stewart adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Wargo