

**Virginia Beach City Public Schools  
General Advisory Council for  
Technical and Career Education  
General Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Technical and Career Education Center**

**Members Present:** Barbara Brinson, Jim Cevera, Jim DeBellis, Robert Gerling, Reza Hashampour, Tammy Jaxtheimer, Jerry Stewart, Armand Taylor, and Amy Wisilosky

**Members Absent:** Nicki Adams, Judy Begland, Dan Bell, Jane Brooks, Chris Davidson, Cameron Dye, Cory Gray, Robert Hall, Phil Reed, Brenda Sedlacek, Prescott Sherrod, Tom Smith, and Kevin Will

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

**Technical and Career Education Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Michael Bolton, Ann Marie Garvey, Alveta Mitchell, and Robert Mitchell

**Special Guest:** Chris Fischer, administrative coordinator, Department of Curriculum and Instruction

**Call to Order**

Jerry Stewart called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

**Old Business**

***Approval of Minutes***

The minutes of the December 16, 2008, meeting were approved as recorded.

***Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in Technical and Career Education***

David Swanger introduced Kevin Pace and his Electronics students who demonstrated the robots that they are currently using for the local robotic competition. The students started out with a basic robot kit, then added their own design, and configured a Playstation 2 controller to control the movements of the robots. When questioned about the recent Robot Rodeo at the Advanced Technology Center (ATC), the students expressed their amazement for the skills and capability of the FBI robots.

***Governor's Exemplary Standards***

Linda Love stated that the Office of Technical and Career Education (TCE) needs Business and Industry volunteers to serve on TCE Exemplary Standards review teams during the week of May 4 – 8, 2009. Twelve site teams will review program data compiled by TCE teachers on a choice of the following training days:

**Luncheon Meeting: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.**

Advanced Technology Center, Forum  
Tidewater Community College Virginia Beach Campus  
1800 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453

**Breakfast Meeting: Friday, May 1, 2009, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Advanced Technology Center, Forum  
Tidewater Community College Virginia Beach Campus  
1800 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA 23453

After the partners review the program data, they will visit the schools undergoing review on the following dates:

**Monday, May 4, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Salem High School, Principal's Conference Room  
1993 Sun Devil Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
(Family & Consumer Sciences and Engineering & Technology Education departments only)

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

First Colonial High School, Principal's Conference Room  
1272 Mill Dam Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23454  
(Family & Consumer Sciences and Engineering & Technology Education departments only)

**Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Kempsville High School, Principal's Conference Room  
5194 Chief Trail, Virginia Beach, VA 23464 (All TCE departments)

**Friday, May 8, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

Ocean Lakes High School, Room 104  
885 Schumann Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23454 (All TCE departments)

Please help the TCE Staff recruit additional volunteers to serve on these teams. Linda Love will email the review team application to all General Advisory Council (GAC) members within a week. Partners should fax their training and site visit preferences to Linda Love at (757) 468-4234. Please share the application with interested business and industry prospects to serve on the team.

### **New Business**

#### ***Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow***

Linda Spruill reported that Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow (VTfT) held their second annual symposium at the Advanced Technology Center on February 5, 2009. All comprehensive high school Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow students attended. Dr. Merrill opened the symposium with a greeting and overview of teaching as a career, followed by a panel discussion where students were able to ask questions. The panelist included former VTfT students Jordon Baer, Sarah Read and Kelsie Strawhand, as well as principals Bruce Biehl, Kelly Coon, and Catherine Rogers. During their lunch break, students were given the opportunity to meet with area colleges that offer education programs. Each college was provided a table for display purposes. Colleges and universities participating were Hampton University,

Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Regent University, Virginia Wesleyan College, and Tidewater Community College. Additionally, Bernard Platt, Department of Human Resources, was on hand to promote Virginia Beach schools. Ron Jones, author of The Acorn People, was the keynote speaker. The Acorn People is required reading for the state program. Amanda Ashe, 2009 Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) Teacher of the Year, gave the closing remarks. A slide show of pictures was presented during lunch.

### ***Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education***

Jerry Stewart was appointed in 2008 to the Virginia Advisory Committee for Career and Technical Education (VACCTE). Jerry attended the January meeting held in Richmond where the focus was on strategic planning. There is a desire for the VACCTE to interact with local general advisory councils. Sarah Martin commented that one way to interact and find out what localities are doing is to have a statewide general advisory council summit focusing on four areas: industry certification, funding, program improvement, and legislation. Jerry Stewart will take that suggestion back to the state committee.

### ***2009 Carl Perkins Grant***

Sarah Martin presented the proposed Perkins budget and gave a brief detail on the changes. Per state guidelines, 60 percent of the grant must be spent on required uses of funds; i.e., equipment and professional development; 40 percent must be spent in permissive uses of funds; i.e., student organizations. The proposed budget presented shows a majority of the money to be used on equipment and professional development in all five program areas. A recent change from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is now allowing Perkins to fund one teacher per Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) chapter to attend state and national leadership development conferences/competitions. This provides much needed relief to localities, who, in the past, have had to absorb 100 percent of the chaperone cost.

Jim DeBellis made a motion to accept the budget and Robert Gerling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

### ***Legislation***

John Ledgerwood stated that, in the General Assembly, the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education has two legislative actions in play.

1. House Joint Resolution # HJR678 to address the teacher shortage by involving Virginia's community colleges in the teacher preparation process.
2. House Bill # HB2517 to codify the role and worth of industry assessments and certifications for students.

Both legislative issues have passed the House and are heading to the Senate floor for final vote.

### ***Other Business***

### ***Technical and Career Education Center Certification Testing***

David Swanger gave a brief update on industry credentialing at the Tech Center, citing an increase in the number of students taking and passing the workplace readiness skills (WRS) pre-test. Mr. Swanger is an advocate of WRS testing, stating that this assessment is one of the most important as it verifies students'

readiness to enter the workplace. Combined with content certification, VBCPS is preparing students with both technical and soft skills needed to succeed in the workforce.

### ***Virginia Beach Strategic Plan Update***

Patrick Konopnicki gave an update on the school division's strategic plan - Compass 2015. Virginia Beach has contracted with Tony Wagner, Harvard professor, to help the division move in the direction of incorporating 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into the classroom. A comparison of the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to the 13 Workplace Readiness Skills was discussed. In addition to the 13 Workplace Readiness Skills, technical and career education credentialing data – testing all TCE completers in WRS -- was shared.

### ***Virginia R U Ready***

Sarah Martin shared a copy of *Virginia R U Ready* magazine, which is distributed to all middle and high school students. Two former Virginia Beach TCE students were featured. The first student, Nicole Roux, a former Kempsville High School culinary arts graduate, is a sous chef at Aqua S Restaurant in Duck, North Carolina. The other student is Sean Sawyer, a former First Colonial High School marketing graduate, who is now the Director of Operations for the Tampa Bay Rays minor league complex.

There was no further business and Jerry Stewart adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

The date of the next meeting is April 28, 2008, at 12:00 noon at the Advanced Technology Center. Members will be notified by mail.

### ***Current Events***

Thursday, February 18, 2009 – Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Career Fair held at Landstown High School

Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Career Connection held at the ATC

Thursday, March 19, 2009, 1:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Virtual Enterprise Trade Fair held at Virginia Wesleyan College

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Swofford