

Regional Advisory Board Meeting

10/5/21

Minutes

Members present: Anne Beekman, BUHS Board; John Broadley, BFUHS; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Anne Doran, WRCC; Cathy Johnson, Hinsdale HS; Margo Ghia, Bellows Falls Board; Andrew Haas, WNESU; Chloe Learey, Community Member; Linda Quay, WRCC; Robert Thibault, LGUHS; Nancy Wiese, WRCC and Bob Woodworth, Chair/Community Member.

1. Opening Remarks

Bob thanked everyone for showing up. First in-person meeting in a long time and not in pajamas.

Introductions were made around the room. Bob explained that this is a new experiment timewise - holding a morning meeting. A hearty thank you to staff and administration for coping with all the changes. Totally impressed. Doing what is best for the kids.

2. Approve Agenda

Agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Discuss and Approve the Minutes

Bob asked to add to the second paragraph the statement that approval was required from the WSESD Board also.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved with the noted correction.

4. COVID Data

Three students are in crisis. Planning to build a community team. All three are seniors. One will be attending Vermont Adult Learning and has asked to remain in the program. Need to catch him up in the program.

Devious Licks

Challenge on social media. \$1,000. + of damage. Nancy explained that they had done enough to plug the main line. October's challenge is to slap a teacher. That is an assault and it would remain on their permanent record. We did have a weapon on campus.

Nancy informed everyone about the background of the situation. The weapon was never outside of the car. Nancy is vigilantly checking the parking lot at the TIC.

Electrical Technology is up and running. Currently has seventeen students. The kids love our new instructor. WRCC hired five new instructors this year. Three from Bellows Falls Union High School.

Nancy reviewed WRCC's enrollment figures.

28 - Level II

108 - Level I

2 - adult students

Chloe Learey asked what would be the ideal number. Nancy replied that she would like to work up to over 200 students. Anne added that the capacity for each program is about sixteen. Will always face lower numbers in our Level II sections. We can help students gain certifications through IRC's and co-op opportunities. Nancy mentioned a great meeting she had with SEON creating a program to get students into construction. Electrical is on their way toward that direction. Funding through the state COVID money. No one community is funding the whole bill.

We have to test kids twice a year in Math and English. Designed the schedule so Math and English instructors can push into the programs. If you score 5 or above, you do not have to test again. Students receive an IRC and earn two elective credits that can be used for college placement. Margo asked if both Level I and Level II take the test. Yes. Nancy said students take it at the beginning and end of Level I and beginning of Level II to access learning gaps and design curriculum to address this.

7. Budget Overview and Discussion

Nancy informed everyone that the budget was down last year. Nancy used the money from the removal of the performing arts program to start up the new Electrical Technology program this year. WRCC needs to replace some of the vehicles. Will be a process over a period of time. Nancy feels that there should be good deals in the future. Bob asked what the budget timing and process looked like. Nancy said the process starts next week. Assess local needs for Perkins grant. Nancy explained that there is a huge push at the community level for construction, electrical and plumbing work. These areas meet the high wage requirements for this area. Anne asked about transportation for sending school visits. Nancy replied that she has built it in the marketing area of the budget. We can also partner with BDCC. Chloe asked why is the budget lower even though we added Electrical. Nancy explained that the electronics piece was dropped. The Electrical Technology advisory board will come in and interview for jobs. Nancy added that what is not sustainable is that Early Childhood is not affordable. We need to pay teachers more. Chloe also added that the day cares are an emotional foundation. They have discussed clinical consultation. Doesn't come up that way in other trades programs. This is an area that should be looked at.

Andy Haas asked for a breakdown from each district. Anne stated that sending school enrollment is very low. Bob added that we should be doing what is best for the kids and not chasing the money. It seems like we are penalizing the sending schools. Nancy explained that Technical Directors are working hard to battle this in the legislature. Anne added that Bellows Falls students can choose between the two centers. Our Automotive program is unique. John Broadley said that he sees students driving in this direction.

Nancy asked why have we become so college driven. Nancy shared the history that during the Vietnam War, you either went to college or you were drafted. Less people

went into the trades. Average age of trades people are older now. Got to push kids into the trades. John Broadley asked if we have a plan. Little shift - get education along the way. Nancy shared that her son has decided G.S. has a great model. They offer education while you work. Chloe asked how we plan to implement COVID money into the budget. Nancy plans to increase professional development, data training, boost number of computers and replace vehicles over a period of time. Proposes to sell computers to high school for new ones. Nancy would also like to give computers to students that might not have the technology that qualifies. COVID money expires the end of September next year.

COVID	\$200,000.
Perkins	200,000.
TIME	120,000.

We also receive in-kind donations. Will need to put money into the Protective Services program next year. Last year we contracted through the Sheriff's Department. Nancy was notified just before school started that the Sheriff's Department lost a deputy. Nancy would like to hire a permanent Criminal Justice instructor. Will advance the number of IRC's. Students have to be 18 for EMR certification. Chloe asked if it is more expensive to contract than to hire. Nancy said no. John Broadley suggested asking for a waiver due to COVID. It was suggested to him to keep asking.

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for January 11th.

Bob thanked everyone again for taking the time to attend.

Anne Beekman made the motion to adjourn. John Broadley seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.