

WRCC Regional Advisory Board Meeting
11/9/23
Minutes

Members present: Christy Betit, BDCC; David Clark, BFUHS Board; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Hannah Parker, BUHS; Anne Doran, WRCC; Chloe Learey, Winston Prouty Ctr.; Eduardo Melendez, WRCC; Linda Quay, WRCC; Mark Speno, WSESD; Rhonda Winegarner, WRCC; Bob Woodworth, Chair/Community Member. In attendance via Zoom: Bob Thibeault, WCSU; Sarah Grasso, LGUHS.

1. Call to order - Welcome new members
Woody called the meeting to order at 11:37. Introductions were made.
2. Approve the agenda
Chloe L. made a motion to approve the agenda. David C. seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
3. Approve Meeting Minutes from Sept. 21, 2023
David C. made a motion to approve. Nancy W. seconded. Minutes were accepted as written.
4. Administrative Report
Nancy discussed the budget preparation for next year. There is an increase. Let Nancy know if you have any questions. The supply line is up \$23,000. The cost of metals - wiring, rebar, etc. The machining lab will be fully implemented. Forging material for Manufacturing and wiring for Electrical have all increased in cost. Nancy added that the Electrical instructor has creatively obtained supplies from vendors and received a large donation from a family that had a large supply of electrical items - old and new. Chloe asked to verify what year we would see the \$23,000. increase. Next year. Nancy explained the increase in student dues and fees to attend competitions. This is really important to students and many families can't afford the cost. This will also be built into the budget for families that can't afford to pay this. In the equipment line, Nancy has included two simulators at \$24,000 total. Nancy will move other money around only if enrollment justifies it. There was discussion about how a simulator is used. Will be purchasing two more this year from grant funds. Transportation is way up. To rent a coach to travel to Burlington is \$4,200. round trip. There will be an increase in Co-op transportation as we try to place more students at various business sites. Transportation should not stand in the way. Chloe inquired about the number of seats on a bus. Nancy explained the condition of WRCC buses. Chloe stated that she was trying to think of other creative ways to combine transportation. Nancy replied that we are trying all options. WRCC discourages the use of personal vehicles. If transporting more than five students, then it becomes a bus and a special license is required. Chloe asked if students can drive themselves. Yes with parental permission and no other students can ride along.

Nancy said that we have two over qualified paras. Recommending they move into a CTE instructor status. WRCC will support them in completing their education. This will

reduce paras from 4 to 1.5. Students will be working with highly qualified teachers. Christy B. asked if this is an opportunity to open the cafe. Nancy stated that we have fallen off the Health & Food inspection list. We need to purchase a cash register. We hope that staff and students will frequent the WRCC cafe instead of Dunkin. Chloe inquired about the remaining .5 Nancy said that we haven't filled that this year. We currently have a part-time para in Health and in Machining. Next year Chris Hodsden will move to full time Aviation. There will be a reduction in Health Careers as one instructor is retiring. One instructor next year to teach Human Growth & Development. Overall, the budget will be equal to this year's budget. Woody asked if you still receive a goal to aim for. Nancy mentioned that fuel costs are also considered.

Mari C. stated that LNA and paras are instructing LNA for the Adult Education Program. We want to keep this program going. We need to find someone to connect with adult education. Welding will become very lucrative. Woody added that Hvac is also in high demand. Nancy said that she is looking into Hvac and Animal Science. Finding instructors will be difficult.

WRCC is in desperate need of an auto instructor. Looking for someone that would be available from now until June. Nancy has reached out to Subaru and Ford. We have a great automotive shop. Qualifications include knowledge about cars, reliability and enjoy kids.

Chloe returned to the topic of the budget. Are we at a deficit? Nancy said the budget will be balanced - there is no level funding this year.

Christy said she would be able to help with finding an auto instructor.

Nancy has a letter that will be going out for scholarship donations. We haven't heard anything yet.

Nancy announced that she will be taking a 4-6 week medical leave. Chris Hodsden has agreed to help cover. Hannah also has an opening. Nancy will be available by cell or email. Hannah added that BUHS has six administrators that can also help out. Best wishes from Chloe regarding Nancy's health. Nancy expressed her frustration with the health care system.

Nancy received a request to move RAB meetings from 2nd Thursday of the month to another week. Will be sending out a poll to everyone.

Nancy stated that she would like to build a vision quickly regarding corrective action plans for WRCC. We do not want to lose our Perkins funding. We are currently in compliance. Nancy asked the board for their help as to where you see our county going and CTE. Demands on CTE will be increasing. David C. added that legislation has heard four plans. CTE future - simple benchmark, what we are teaching now and 21st century skills. Nancy said that hard skills are going to change but showing up to work on time will not. Woody said that the state is talking about grouping kids. Balance between

universities and colleges. The State doesn't know how to handle it now. Rhonda stated that she is trying to buy a class. Chloe would like to know what to ask legislators for. Is there historical data? Nancy said that there is a 40% increase last year (114.6) Down this year by 5 FTE's (109.) Level I's are very large. It's hard because of graduation requirements for students to continue to Level II. They can't fit it in.

David C. asked about pre-tech. Nancy answered that we have one now. Students in the class are loving the program, setting goals and getting to know their learning style. We will expand next year. Anne D. noted that this is not available to sending schools students. Nancy said that this is not covered in our funding. Christy B. explained that she is trying to focus on this age group. It's a challenge to get buy-in at schools. Would like to do it throughout the county. Nancy briefed everyone about Vermont Works for Women. Would like to do a day of tech experience. Nancy has a plan on how we can keep the data for 7th, 8th, & 9th grade county wide.

Time of Challenge - Time of Opportunity

Woody said that he remains positive about WRCC.

David C. made the motion to adjourn. Christy B. seconded.
Meeting adjourned at 12:36