

Regional Advisory Board Meeting
3/14/24
Minutes

Members present: John Barth, Hinsdale H.S.; Ruth Barton, Community Member; Jack Spanierman, Brattleboro Dev. Credit Corp.; Anne Beekman (video connect), BUHS Board; David Clark, Bellows Falls High School Board; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Kathy Larsen, Twin Valley Board; Chloe Leary, Winston Prouty Center; Hannah Parker, BUHS; Linda Quay, WRCC; Mark Speno, Windham Southeast Supervisory District; Bob Thibeault, Windham Central Supervisory Union; Bob Woodworth, Community Member, Eduardo Melendez, WRCC and Nancy Wiese, WRCC.

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:38 am
Welcome new members and introductions.
2. Approve the agenda
The agenda was approved.
3. Approve minutes of Nov. 9th meeting
The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Nov. 9th Meeting.
Minutes were approved.
4. CLNA (Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment)
This review is conducted once a year. Nancy is required to collect data for CLNA under Perkins and share with the RAB Board. There is data behind each slide of presentation. Would like this to be a discussion. Ideas about where to go next. Nancy writes the grant from this information. Our data reflects a couple of errors. We have had 4-5 different people reporting the data. Assessment shows we need to improve in -
Reading - work in progress. Strategies in place. Increased level of Math and Reading. Science is tested in the 11th grade. Students have only had $\frac{3}{4}$ of a year of class. Science grades need to improve in Forestry. Rhonda asked if the reading was a component of WorkKeys. Nancy feels that there was a lot of guessing taking place. Rhonda asked if students are afforded the same accommodations. Having the reading out loud is possible in the future. Students in Electrical have gained great strategies.
Non-traditional Students We have several non-traditional students in Manufacturing. David Clark questioned an example - are females non-traditional in Auto or Machining? Childcare has a reputation of not paying well. Working on this issue. Nancy informed the board about a purchase for Early Childhood that has been requested.
IRC's Criminal Justice also offers dual enrollment grades through Community College of Vermont.
Labor Market we scored excellent in this category. Culinary has kicked it up a notch and won the Golden Ladle this year. David Spanierman and Lizi Rosenberg have done an amazing job in preparing students for this competition.
Size, Scope and Quality working on rebuilding the advisory boards. Culinary is working on offering college credit. We have a new Auto instructor. Aviation is

rebuilding their board. Rhonda stated that the AOE (Agency of Education) is always

looking for credentials. Two fast-forward tickets for 10 & 11 graders. No more Culinary institutions in Vermont. Have to cross state lines. Petitioned for more money to local school boards. The same is true for Manufacturing. Nancy has just written a letter asking to allow Perkins funding for purchasing credits the same way we do for in-state students. Universities don't get fast forward. Teachers have to have a Masters Degree. Hands are bound because we can't cross borders. Nancy is considering joining local organizations to make connections in the community. Personalized Learning Plans may be required for students to attend WRCC. Linda Q., Eduardo and Rachel are working on this so students don't miss an opportunity to get something for free.

Faculty and Staff - suggest more team-building activities. Nancy briefed the board about our new hires to become teachers next year. More possibilities. Chloe asked what was the percentage of responses. Mark said that these were impressive results. Nancy added that Mark has been very supportive. Would like to purchase a bus and truck to help with the transportation issue. Nancy hopes to buy a used bus, truck and/or van.

Student Data - looks great. Students feel a sense of belonging at the Career Center. Jack asked what percentage responded. 45% completed the survey. Nancy said that surveying students that didn't attend was difficult. Nancy explained that the reasons not to accept a student are based on behavior, academic readiness and safety. Rhonda added that Career Foundations is working on linking to Intro to College Careers. Kathy Larsen asked where Career Foundations was offered. Nancy stated that students can attend if the sending schools agree to pay.

Parent Survey - a lot of orange on this chart due to the loss of the Film program.

Community and Employers - request that students be present, on time, and willing to do the job. Chloe suggested email blasts to the Chamber of Commerce and BDCC.

How many have a Career Center connection? More general p.r. Woody added that he always encourages people to check out the career center. Nancy said that word of mouth is the best method to spread the word. Our goals are to build knowledge to the community. Skills are extremely important. Chloe asked what the center's capacity is. Nancy said that it is 400 students. Woody remembered when the center was renovated, the capacity was set for 200. CTE is not cheap. We are lucky to have the resources we do. Kathy Larsen suggested a seat be offered to someone in Rotary. Nancy would like to have Rotary come to WRCC for lunch and tour the center.

Chloe asked who could be a champion? What would be a good match? Woody spoke of his son Chris who has come back numerous times making a connection.

Nancy added that next year Clayton Thompson will be teaching Solid Surfaces. Students relate to him. Nancy said it feels good to know where your growth opportunities are.

5. Budget

The budget this year is down a bit. Health Careers will be alternating offerings. One instructor is retiring and this gives us a reduction. Still allows us to cut the budget some. Contingency cut of 2% (\$52,000.) The cap was removed. Education

fund has not been managed well. David Clark explained briefly what happened. He said that $\frac{1}{3}$ of the money was from other revenue sources - reduce the budget to get properties back in line. \$235 million hole in education budget. Serious discussion to be had. The education fund has been used for other purposes. Nancy stated that many of our instructors have prepared good budgets. Chloe asked Nancy if she can find \$52,000. Nancy said she feels o.k. about it. We can do it but will never shortchange the students. Rhonda said we need to promote the center. Bring back alumni. Suggested sub-committee within the RAB board to present. Chloe notes we had two people already who are on the RAB board. Who do we know that could champion for us? Form committee at next meeting. Chloe asked what number of board members do we want? Nancy would like a good representation of industry on the RAB. More community members than school. It's the community that drives us.

Woody thanked everyone.

Ruth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Eduardo seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.