

Regional Advisory Board Meeting
February 25, 2025
Minutes

Members present: Christy Betit, chair, community member; Peter Broussard, Windham Central; Mari Cornell, WRCC; Anne Doran, WRCC; Nancy Wiese, WRCC; Debra Grant, CCV (remote); Kathy Larsen, TV Board member; Eduardo Melendez, WRCC; Linda Quay, WRCC; Bob Thibeault, Windham Central; and Bob Woodworth, community member.

The meeting started at 11:38. Not enough members were in attendance for a quorum.

Nancy shared some data on career and technical requirements and the admissions procedure with everyone. Did re-do - all programs have listed Algebra I. Changed to list skills. Algebra I is listed among a few, such as Manufacturing and Aviation. Nancy will look at programs and how to get students access. We mirrored what BUHS is doing if you pull out special education students who are not represented in CTE.

Christy noted from the minutes that she did not complete the task of creating a survey that she agreed to do. She will get it done.

The Reality Fair event on Thursday is from 9:00 - 11:30. Will offer the practical skills portion. The goal is to have fun and learn skills you all wanted to know in high school. Teachers will also have the opportunity to talk up their programs. There will be a scavenger hunt. Counselors will meet with students afterward. Christy stated that this is a pilot year for the fair. Anne added that it is a challenge for BUHS to schedule tours. We have tours on the books for Bellows Falls, LeLand & Gray, and Twin Valley. Mari asked if this was for all grade levels at the other schools. Christy responded that the Financial piece was for juniors and seniors. Christy said Practical Skills were offered to help manage the students attending the fair. Still playing with the model. Would like to bring the financial piece to BUHS in the fall. Anne noted that Christy is doing an excellent job. Christy thanked Anne, Linda A., and Rhonda for all they are doing to help with this project. Woody spoke about the education piece in the "Reformer."

Nancy shared data. Working hard to close the gap in reading progress. Did not do as well in Math this year. Focused on reading and math. We are above the state rate. The result of the survey indicates that 95% of students feel that they belong. Students need to earn college credit or IRC's at the end of two years. This has driven up the enrollment. Nancy would like to change the option from opting in to opting out of dual enrollment. We don't ask teachers to make two sets of plans. If students had to pay, it is only \$100. or a scholarship. For all career and tech classes, there is no fee. Peter B. asked again to clarify. Thanks to Perkins V, there is no charge. There is a fee for high school classes, but it is usually waived. Kathy L. asked where the scholarship money came from. Nancy responded that the money was from the local budget. Nancy mentioned to everyone that she visited all the students at home during COVID. Nancy observed how much poverty there is. Transportation and access are huge. We need to work on students in non-traditional programs. Close to the state average for females. Below for males. Attributed to perception and pay rate. We need to do a sales push for co-op next year.

Nancy informed everyone about a new Vermonter student who lived in a refugee camp for seven years and has earned enough scholarships for free admission to Champlain College for four years. Christy suggested a press release. Anne added that we need to keep pushing these stories out.

The next RAB meeting is in May. Nancy said we may need an emergency meeting if the budget doesn't pass. Peter B. asked if there was an increase. As a district, we have a 1% increase. Frank Rucker does an incredible job. Bob T. asked what our projected enrollment is. Nancy responded that CTE is funded on a six-semester average. We have 76 full-time equivalents. Our 6-semester average should go up. Would like more historical data than the 6-semesters. Look at student numbers by program. Bob T. asked about retention rates. Nancy responded that numbers do fall off between Level I and Level II. Anne added that early college has become one of our competitors. Great for some - not for a lot. Woody said that there are incredible jobs in the community. Peter B. asked about the per pupil cost, and Nancy said that we are below. Always a work in progress. The governor's plan has education in CTE becoming a separate district. Important to keep it going. It will be up in the air for a while. Christy added that the community has voices of concern. Christy would be willing to do some outreach.

Anne asked what would bring people to this meeting. It really has to do with the agenda. Christy suggested something interactive—a think tank. Woody said food is always a good motivator. Kathy L. added that she is retired and finds the RAB meetings very interesting. She continually learns something every time we have a meeting and finds the meetings informative. She assumes that principals are busy. Nancy suggested offering tours on a school day. We have amazing students. Would like community members to know what we are offering.

The next meeting is May 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 12:28