

## I. Attendance & Introductions RAB 3/26/26

The meeting opened with a "warm-up" question regarding the best piece of advice members had received. Key participants identified include:

- **Nancy Wiese:** Director, WRCC
- **Christy Betit:** Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) / Board Chair
- **Anne Beekman:** Chair, Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU)
- **Kathy Larsen:** Twin Valley School Board Representative
- **Sarah Grasso:** High School Counselor, Leland & Gray
- **Rhonda Winegarner:** Dual Enrollment & Career Exploration Coordinator
- **Anne Doran:** Counselor, WRCC
- **Jessy Cudworth:** WRCC Registrar
- **Errold Nelson:** Forestry Instructor
- **Mark Paluilis:** WRCC Instructor
- **Heather Waryas:** Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Bellows Falls
- **Nicole Awwad:** Career Foundations Instructor
- **John DiMatteo:** Construction & Architecture Instructor
- **Rachel Fox:** English Instructor
- **Ginger Driscoll:** Bellows Falls Union High School Board / Director of Greater Falls Connections
- **Chris Hodsden:** Aviation Careers Instructor
- **Jeannie Hodsden:** Health Careers Instructor
- **Joyce Rathbun:** Administrative Assistant, WRCC
- **Katherine Berta:** Business Owner (Brattleboro KOA) & Property Owner
- **Linda Alvarez,** Business Instructor
- **Orlando Alvarez,** Criminal Justice Instructor
- **Kim Freeman,** Early Childhood Instructor
- **Bill Sevigny,** Electrical Instructor
- **Rich Thompson,** Machining Instructor
- **Kristin Vicere,** Special Needs Coord.
- **Mari Cornell,** Adult Ed. Coord.
- **Eduardo Melendez,** Work-Based Learning Coord.

---

## II. Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) & Perkins 5 Update

**Presenter:** Nancy Wiese

- **Purpose:** The CLNA is a federal requirement every two years to receive Perkins funding. It ensures programs align with local, regional, and state economic needs.
- **Student Performance Data:**
  - **Graduation Rate:** Currently **94.69%**.

- **Reading Proficiency:** Currently **46.61%** (measured via WorkKeys). Nancy expressed a commitment to raising this number, despite challenges with students entering the center below grade level.
- **Math Proficiency:** Currently **60%**, which is above the state average.
- **Post-Program Placement:** Reported at **100%** (though noted as a likely data glitch; internal estimates are closer to **85%+**).
- **Dual Enrollment:** WRCC leads the state in concurrently taught college-credit programs. **87%** of students graduated with at least three college credits last year.

Bill Sevigny expressed his concern that we are being punished and held accountable for something we have no control over.

- **Staffing Changes:** Three long-term staff members are retiring: Jeannie Hodsden (Health), Chris Hodsden (Aviation), and Joyce Rathbun (Admin, Assistant - 52 years of service).

### III. Admissions & Enrollment Update

**Presenters:** Anne Doran & Jessy Cudworth

- **Application Volume:** Currently **218 applications** (comparable to last year's 223).
- **Acceptances:** 148 students accepted to date.
- **Trends:** There is a notable uptick in 9th-grade applications.
- **Challenges:** Shifts in sending-school schedules (e.g., BUHS, Twin Valley) may impact afternoon program attendance.
- **State Level:** Discussion regarding potential redistricting and the Agency of Education (AOE) suggesting CTE become a "Service Area" governed by a statewide entity to ensure equity.

### IV. Outreach & Recruitment Initiatives

**Presenters:** Chris Hodsden, Linda Alvarez, & Christy Betit

- **BEAMS (Middle School After-School):** Currently running an Aviation cohort. Students engage with drones, simulators, and flight theory. The goal is to expand this "mobilely" to other districts.
- **Practical Life Skills Fair:** Recently hosted **120 sophomores**. Plans for next year include moving the event to the fall and inviting all regional 8th graders.
- **Early Awareness:** Successful "Career Explorer" days held for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders from Twin Valley. Future plans involve a tiered approach:
  - **3rd Grade:** Exploration.

- **6th Grade:** "Makers" (Hands-on creation).
  - **8th Grade:** Practical Skills Fair and formal tours.
  - **Marketing Strategy:** Suggestions were made to use alumni success stories to counter "AP-only" parental pressure and to highlight high-tech aspects like drone piloting in construction.
- 

## V. Upcoming Events

- **April 15:** College Fair at Leland & Gray.
  - **April 17 & 29:** Fearless Futures Fairs (Bellows Falls & Twin Valley).
  - **May 12:** Southern Vermont Economy Summit.
  - **May 21:** High Demand Careers & Apprenticeship Fair (UHS).
- 

## VI. Adjournment

The meeting concluded with an invitation for members to submit future agenda items in advance.

**Next Meeting:** Final meeting of the year is scheduled for June 4th featuring a presentation by Kim Freeman, Early Childhood Education instructor.