

HARFORD COUNTY  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**September 21, 2021**  
**8:00-9:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees:** Rob Limpert, Katie Campbell, Jim Reynolds, Bill Pelt, Kelly Koermer, Denise Carnaggio, Jeanne Donlick, Karen Goodison, Kimberly Justus, Stacie Umbarger, Kay Malone, Joy Pelt, Mikale Brutus, Sara Saacks

**Welcome and Introductions:** Mr. Limpert welcomed everyone and Mr. Jim Reynolds, Principal of Harford Technical High School. Mr. Reynolds came to Harford Tech from Havre de Grace High School. Mr. Reynolds mentioned that pending approval of the budget, Harford Technical HS could begin undergoing renovations within the next one to three years.

**Administrative Matters:** We reviewed the agenda and previous meeting's Minutes. A motion to accept minutes was made by Karen Goodison and seconded by Kay Malone. The Minutes were approved at 8:10am.

**Staffing:** Mr. Mohlenrich has resigned from HTHS. Mr. Joseph Rivera has filled the position. We hired 15 CTE teachers mostly for our comprehensive high schools and middle schools. Of the 15, 13 hold a conditional certificate which means they hold a bachelor's degree, but do not hold teaching credentials. Teachers can remain on a conditional certificate for two years, during which time, they must earn the required education credits and pass the Praxis exams in their content and the core areas. We opened the school year fully staffed, but unfortunately had a resignation yesterday and are seeking a Technology Education teacher for Edgewood Middle School.

**Grant Updates by Rob Limpert and Kelly Koermer:**

We received our Perkins Grant and have already started spending those funds on the materials and supplies that the teachers had requested. We also received several Reserve Grants this year for professional development and with the turnover it will help us get our new staff training that they will need to implement the third-party curriculum coursework that we use such as Project Lead the Way etc. It will also help us keep our other teachers updated on their training/certifications.

Apprenticeship Maryland Program Grant – We are looking to add a second AMP Grant to support the program and to help it grown. We hired our former work-based learning coordinator at Harford Technical high school, Jason Grahe, as the Technology Education/Work-Based Learning/Apprenticeship Coordinator at Swan Creek School.

Harford Community College received their annual Perkins Grant, they received \$220k for purchasing equipment to support PTech at Joppatowne high school and equipment for their Manufacturing program—as well as for recruiting and retaining women in STEM areas. They are also applying to MSDE for an Innovations grant that will have a focus on transportation logistics and security and safety.

Mr. Limpert mentioned that we will be working with HCC to develop a Distribution and Logistics program. This program will be offered as a third program-of-study option under the Business Education “umbrella” in our comprehensive high schools.

They are also exploring an EDA Grant which is a rolling grant that is available for capital projects. This grant would be focused on expanding the college’s presence in the Rt. 40 area and to include a facility that would focus on workforce development in the manufacturing areas and Industry 4.0.

Harford Community College also received a supplemental grant called Hire Harford First that is focused on Cyber Security students to focus on incorporating Hack-a-thons or red team blue team exercises into their capstone course.

### **MSDE Updates and Program impact:**

Cohort of 2025 (this year’s freshmen) Graduation requirement changed in Technology Education to include more Computer Science and more engineering-based courses. A task force was created to look at the current Foundations of Technology graduation requirement to look at expanding the offerings with the regular FOT course. MSDE really wants more concepts involving computer science to be built in the course and they are proposing over the next five years that the course content be changed to reflect the MSDE push towards computer science.

So, we will be getting a committee together to closely examine the curriculum that we are currently using and start to look at modifying and adjusting it to meet the new requirements that MSDE is putting into place. The current model that we have does fit the requirements MSDE. We do offer at all our comprehensive and our technical center additional options outside of FOT. Through the AP Computer Science principles and even some of the schools who are offering some of our project lead the way courses. We offer an opportunity for them to take introduction to engineering or IED courses which also fulfill the graduation requirement. So according to what MSDE has in COMAR at this point we already meet that requirement, but we going to be proactive at looking at the FOT curriculum to try to make sure that we are in line with both the community’s needs, business needs, and making sure our students are adequately prepared as they make that next step to post-secondary.

The Advanced Technology Education pathway will no longer be available to the class of 2025. Those in grades 10-12 can continue in the program as a program-of-study for graduation. Historically, this pathway has afforded hundreds of students a diploma in HCPS and throughout the state. HCPS is in the process of creating a new CTE pathway to meet the new graduation requirements with credentialing opportunities to nearly mirror the existing Advanced Technology program. We are looking at 3-D manufacturing, CADD, and OSHA certifications. MSDE has not been supportive of the OSHA certificate, but we are going to request it be accepted as employers require it. We will be developing a writing team over the next month to begin outlining the course sequence in alignment with ITEEA (International Technology Education Engineering Association) standards.

Another big impact is the Early Childhood Education program of study. MSDE is forcing us to move away from 90-clock hour certification to the CDA (Child Development Associate certificate), which has rigid requirements: 490 hours, not to include classroom seat time, a robust teaching portfolio, etc. However, this certification cannot be used until the student is 19

years old. Many of students graduate at age 18 and will not be able to readily use this certification to obtain employment upon graduation.

The new legislation Blueprint for MD advances this initiative and does not leave room for LEA's to continue offering the ECE pathway as it exists. Each school has to have a licensed center with a licensed instructor (must hold CDA), which could force some smaller systems to eliminate the Early Childhood program, which is counterproductive to the Bill.

### **HTHS Application updates:**

Harford Tech Application Process: HCPS Leadership has examined the process and decided to change the process: 50% of students will be admitted based upon merit, the other 50% will be selected by meeting the minimum requirements for the program.

All Magnet Informational Nights and Open Houses will now be conducted virtually. Our Magnet Information Night will be held via Teams Live on Wednesday, October 6, 2021.

### **HCC Updates by Kelly Koermer:**

Ms. Koermer announced that Leading Edge is officially up and running at the Boys and Girls Club in Edgewood. She shared photos: and mentioned that the HCC branding is in all the rooms. There is a maker space with 3-D printers and Business Consulting for those who want to test their inventions and work with the Small Business Development Center to bring plans to fruition as well as a simulator room. The Welding simulator is a safe way to engage students in their first attempts at welding and provides feedback to the instructor regarding the integrity of the weld. The Front-end Load simulator, forklift, and CDL simulators are also available. A bulldozer simulator will be added with funds from the Ratcliffe Foundation. There will be a schedule of hours open to the public published in the near future.

HCC welcomes this CAC committee to meet in this facility when HCPS is permitted to host in-person meetings again.

### **Open Dialogue:**

Mr. Limpert mentioned that JROTC may be coming to HCPS at JOHS. Someone from the Havre de Grace community came forward with a connection to a retired US Air Force instructor we would share with a school in Baltimore County.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 23 via Teams.

Meeting adjourned, 9:01 am.