

HARFORD COUNTY  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ON CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**February 16, 2021**

**8:00-9:00 a.m.**

Members Present:

Mikale Brutus, Katie Campbell, Denise Carnaggio, Joe Collins, Kirstie Durr, Kelly Koermer, Robert Limpert, Diane Moore, Bill Pelt, Joy Pelt, Joseph Ricci, Stephen Smallidge, Lisa Snodgrass

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am.

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Limpert welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

- **Administrative Matters**

Mr. Limpert shared his agenda.

- **Updates, Donations and Graduation changes**

Mr. Limpert talked about the graduation changes which will impact students entering high school in the 21-22 school year. One of those changes is the Foundations of Technology Course. We will bring a team together this summer to look at our current foundations of technology education graduation coursework as well as what we have pulled from the international technology education engineering association and we will probably rewrite some of our local curriculum. We will rewrite our local curriculum to align closer to what the language is in Comar. Which will be to include technology, education, engineering, education, and computer science.

There are going to be some credit count changes coming as well, but Mr. Limpert has not heard if they are going to get into Comar for the upcoming school year as was originally planned.

There was also an advanced technology education graduation pathway, which we in Harford County did use. MSDE did say in their last meeting they have created a team which has met already. Once this month and will be meeting again next week to look at creating a new career and technology or CTE pathway to replace the advanced technology option which will be eliminated. It will be phased out, so if a student started this fall as a freshman in the 2020-21 school year, they would have the opportunity to use that as a graduation pathway.

However, the freshman for 2021-22 school year will not have that option, but the state is planning on having that new technology education, career and

technology education pathway as an option for students in the 21-22 school year. It will mimic very closely what the advance technology education pathway that we are currently using. It will closely follow International Technology Education Engineering Association engineering pathway. But just like our CTE pathways there will be a sequential sequence of courses, either three or four, which students will have to complete the correct sequence to complete the CTE pathway and the CT designation.

The big question right now, which all our CTE pathways have are the added value, certifications, or licensures? What it will be for this pathway so that small committee is looking at options of creating that certification. Right now, the conversations are around AutoCAD using the AutoCAD curriculum at the level 3 course.

Mr. Collins and Mr. Limpert got some very good news. Probably about four months ago we received a letter from the school attorney saying that the school system had been left a donation from the passing of a gentleman who had some interest in automotives. We really did not know much other than the gentlemen wanted to donate some funds to the automotive program at Harford Tech. As things started to materialize and as lawyers started talking between the school system and the estate of the gentleman, whose name is Mr. Andrews, it came to light that this gentleman, had donated \$1,000,000 to the automotive program of Harford County Public Schools. There were some parameters as far as the use of the funds. So currently Mr. Collins and Mr. Limpert are working with Patrick Spicer, and another attorney to formulate a letter to send to the estate of Mr. Andrews so that we can take possession of that money to improve our automotive program at Harford Technical High School.

It is exciting news. Anytime you get something like that It can go very far away and really helps us not just in that program, but it helps the other money that we get from Perkins and Reserve grant to go further for other programs.

- **MSDE Grant Updates/Perkins 22**

Mr. Limpert has meeting in two weeks on the next steps for our needs assessment. If you remember from last year what the needs assessment was, we did a presentation to the Citizens Advisory Committee where we talked briefly about some of our data. Some of the points and received some feedback from the committee and that helped us write our Perkins plan. Once we get more information from MSDE, we may be coming back to briefly talk at our next meeting about some of the Perkins needs assessments.

We are also working on reserve grants. We will be writing 6 reserve grants, which, is the most we can write for. Our focus on these grants is to continue with professional development for our teachers both at Harford Tech and all our comprehensive schools.

Last year they allowed us to write for \$15,000 for professional development, and we focused five of the six were on the professional development. This year they changed the funding allocation and professional development is now only \$10,000.

Last year we wrote one additional grant to expand and provide opportunities for us to showcase and market the CTE programs which we planned on using for a career and technology education night. Which due to covid we did not have.

So as far as the grants for this year, we will be writing six grants, all focusing on professional development for our continued professional development of our staff.

Kelly Koermer added that HCC is exploring Perkins for next year. They may possibly be submitting one supplemental grant as well but have not decided.

Ms. Koermer also said that they are really looking at how they can focus on bringing some additional continuing education programs into Perkins. The first program that they are going to go for is not on the statewide list, so it is an extra hurdle to get that on the statewide list before they can get it on their college list A.

So, if anybody has any ideas for program improvements or ways that they can create better CTE pathways between the high schools and an HCC, let them know and they will explore how they can include that for next year.

- **Industry Partner Presentation**

Kirstie Durr presented on Nevins and Associates which she has worked for 25 years. They are a full-service marketing, PR and communications firm that is based in Towson, Maryland. They have clients locally, regionally, and nationally. Their clients range from the health care industry to professional service firms to grassroots political campaigns as well as not for profits, finance, and media companies.

They do press releases, securing media placements, marketing, advertising, and community relations. They really help their clients give back to the communities that they serve. They think that is important. So, they help guide those decisions so that their strategy can not only help the community, but also build a brand for their client.

Every day is something different with a unique set of challenges. It is invigorating to come up with solutions to their client's goals and objectives through marketing.

One of the exciting clients they work with is the University of Maryland School of Medicine. So, they have been knee-deep in a lot of the promotions and work around their vaccine development.

Mr. Limpert asked what they are looking for in people they are hiring. Ms. Durr said they are looking for people who can shoot video for the social media platforms as well able to edit the video that they record. They also look for people who are strong writers and have good communication skills.

- **HCC Updates**

Kelly Koermer gave us an update on what HCC is doing. They are currently running some face-to-face classes and are hoping to expand to more face-to-face offerings for students during the summer and again more in the fall.

She also updated the committee on the plans for the donation that they received. In July they will have an official grand opening of the leading-edge training center powered by the Ratcliffe Foundation at the boys and girls club in Edgewood. They have just gone through all the processes and with the help and donation of Paul Thompson and his time and expertise they have gotten all the renderings and drawings to help refurbish and renovate some of the classrooms that they will be using at the boys and girls club. They are going to have a pole barn that sits outside that is going to be an instructional space as well as a place to a forklift that they are going to be purchasing. They are also going to be purchasing two heavy equipment simulators as a part of the donation. HCC is planning on having programming in heavy equipment operations, warehousing and logistics, advanced manufacturing, masonry, welding, carpentry as well as some pre-apprenticeship opportunities.

So, they are excited that they can do this again with a donation from the Ratcliffe Foundation as well as the infrastructure grant from the Rural Maryland Council. We hope to be able to invite you all to our ribbon cutting and that will have hopefully in June when things get a little bit safer, and we can be outside. All the opportunities for students that will be taking the Ratcliff based programs at the boys and Girls Club will be supported through scholarships.

HCC would love to start a model where employers could conduct interviews with the students as they are coming into these programs and say, look I am going to interview you now and once you complete this two-week, six month depending on what's the appropriate training, we will conditionally offer you a job as long as you pass a background check and have completed your training and earn the credentials that are a part of this program.

Diane asked is student would be able to come from other areas of the county or if it would be limited to the students in the Edgewood area. Ms. Koermer said that

students can come from any area in the county as well as from out of County, even the Ratcliff Foundation does not put any parameters on that.

- **Open Dialogue**

There was no open dialogue.

- **Closing Comments/Adjourn**

Mr. Limpert reminded everyone that our next meeting is on April 20, 2021 and it would be virtual again.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51am