

HARFORD COUNTY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
MINUTES OF MEETING

October 2, 2024

8:00-10:30 a.m.

Attendees: Faith Balshan, Madisyn Bobb, LaWanda Brown, Joe Connolly, Jeanne Donlick, Matt Johnstone, Shawn Krout, Rob Limpert, Erin Mock, Joshua Oltarzewski, Becky Pensero, Alfred Reeves, Sara Saacks, Wade Sewell, Lisa Snodgrass, Andrew Thomson

Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Connolly started the meeting at 8:02 AM and welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves and explained their role and connection to Career & Technology Education.

Administrative Matters: The agenda for the October 2nd meeting was reviewed with a motion by Mr. Thomson to approve and a second from Mr. Oltarzewski. The minutes from the April 9th meeting were approved with a motion from Mr. Johnstone and a second from Ms. Mock.

Current CTE Events: Mr. Connolly shared that the new brigadier general, who took over at Aberdeen Proving Ground in August, and Commanding Sargeant Major David Silver gave awards to our JROTC students. Ms. Saacks shared the positive impact on Joppatowne High School students of having a recognition ceremony hosted by the brigadier general. Students will be able to participate in the Leadership Development Program.

Mr. Connolly shared that the magnet middle school visits and information nights are going well, with 250 students and family members attending the Magnolia Middle evening event. The program-specific open house events will begin in the next few weeks. Applications open October 14th.

Upcoming events in October and November: Excellence In Education, CTE Committee visit to North Harford High School, Harford Business Roundtable, Apprenticeship Recognition breakfast.

We are now offering Interactive Media, Computer Science, and Engineering as part of our middle school programs.

Apprenticeship Update: Mr. Johnstone gave a brief update on the Apprenticeship Maryland program. The current school year started with 134 apprenticeships; we currently have 165-170. We have 2 students at the NSA, one from Bel Air High School and one from North Harford High School. We also have students at the AICPA. MSDE has 10 career we have students in each one. Swan Creek signed their first apprenticeship student the previous week.

HCPS also provides students with apprenticeship opportunities in Food & Nutrition, Facilities, Edgewood Middle School's after-school tutoring program, and now the Print Shop as well.

Harford County Government and the City of Havre de Grace are also providing students with apprenticeship opportunities, and the City of Aberdeen is coming on board as well.

There is concern that we need to bring in more business partnerships to continue to meet the apprenticeship needs of our students.

There are Trades & Manufacturing fairs coming up, over 100 students attending from various high schools.

Ms. Bobb shared about her apprenticeship at Better Engineering.

Perkins & Perkins Reserve: Mr. Connolly explained that a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment is required every 2 years, with SMARTIE goals as part of the Perkins grant application process. He read through each of the goals. Per the MSDE and Blueprint guidelines, youth-based apprenticeships must align to an industry-recognized credential beginning next school year. We have requested ParaPro and Adobe certifications under Perkins Reserve. We are required to have approximately 144 hours of related instruction.

CTE has been tasked with supporting the HCPS goal of increasing math scores and achievement. We have discussed this during professional development in the fields of welding, construction, and food preparation. During the virtual professional development session, CTE teachers met with staff from the Special Education department on differentiated instruction.

\$400,596 received in Perkins funds to update equipment and materials, and to cover conference expenses. Perkins Reserve is a competitive grant awarded to 8 school systems out of 24 who applied. We received \$59,967, which will be used toward industry-recognized credentials.

HCPS/HCC Workforce Investment: Ms. Pensero recognized the teamwork that allowed the program to get started with help from HCC and Susquehanna Youth Workforce and various departments within HCPS.

96 students are currently participating. The CNA daytime got canceled because of logistics that could not be completed in time. Allied Health was able to offer a night-time CNA course, and out of the 8 original students, 2 students are participating. A plan is being implemented next week with Allied Health to work more closely with students during the school year to complete necessary requirements in time to begin the CNA program at the start of spring course. We are working toward having students from each high school participating in the youth workforce program.

In September, HCC hosted lunch for youth workforce students 9/11 & 12, where they toured the campus. They would like to get students on campus at least once a semester to feel connected to the college. HCC is working to get HCPS students IDs to give them library, gym, and other access.

Mr. Limpert shared that HCC is prioritizing making HCPS students feel welcomed on campus and helping them become more familiar with the campus amenities.

Mr. Connolly stated that we will be able to add 24 seats for open enrollment.

Industry-Recognized Credentials: Bel Air and C. Milton Wright High Schools each have a teacher taking certification for OSHA 30. We now have a list of credentials from the CTE Committee, with new ones being considered; the submission deadline is October 31, 2024.

We have articulated agreements with HCC, Del Valley, and Towson University for credits in case a student does not earn an industry-recognized credential. 10 students are doubling up and need 480 hours needed for their CDA program; they are getting hours at Bakerfield Elementary School from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. More than 10 students are participating in dual enrollment at HCC, others are apprenticing at Celebree, Stonewall Daycare, or other similar organizations.

We are also utilizing BACE for Biomed, ParaPro, Erosion & Sediment Control, Microsoft Office, ServSafe, Security Plus, and Network Plus.

HCC Updates: Mr. Limpert shared that HCC pursuing IRCs that line up with HCPS and MSDE standards. They opened a regional workforce center at Water's Edge last week with courses are being offered in machining, welding, auto diagnostic, and pipeline construction. Currently only evening instruction is being offered. 2nd center proposed for the area near the TUNE Center or Aberdeen near the military base.

New Program of Study at Harford Technical High School: The TAM program is finishing out its cohort at Harford Technical High School, currently at North Harford and Edgewood High Schools. Mr. Connolly opened the floor for new program suggestions.

Two possible new programs: Law Enforcement, with a potential pipeline for cadets; or Artificial Intelligence.

Mr. Limpert believes it would be a tight turnaround for the Law Enforcement program to be ready for a proposal submission this month.

Mr. Oltarzewski recommended starting with a Law Enforcement program, since it will be easier to find people to teach in this field than Artificial Intelligence. Also, AI will insert itself into all other fields of study.

Mr. Limpert suggested re-adding a plumbing program, but emphasized that, with whichever program is selected, good, quality instructors are needed to encourage student engagement and buy-in.

Mr. Oltarzewski asked if a Performing Arts magnet program has ever been considered. Mr. Connolly responded that the new program would need to be a registered apprenticeship or offer an industry-recognized credential, per MSDE guidelines.

Ms. Donlick suggested a program in the Human Resources cluster to cover each area at Harford Technical High School. Specifically, a Homeland Security/Criminal Justice program rather than just Law Enforcement, to cover two areas and encourage more applications.

Mr. Oltarzewski asked about the limits of what students could learn and experience, what our teachers can cover.