

CTE Advisory Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2015

Dr. Jacobs – Thank you to everyone for coming. I look forward to seeing all of you throughout the year. It is nice to meet everyone.

Colleen McKinley started the meeting and explained that tonight is an informal meeting. The goal of the informational meeting is to share what's going on in our CTE program in the district and recruit members to serve on the advisory. She explained that the CTE program and ROP program are now part of the curriculum and instruction division. We are hoping to bring in more industry sectors for our students. Each attendee was asked to introduce themselves to the room and their connection to Bellflower Unified.

Introductions were made by each person attending.

CTE Funding has been increasing over the years. Vocational Education programs in the past were scaled down due to budget cuts, and the programs that suffered most were career education programs. BUSD continued with CTE programs. For example, we still have an auto program and a culinary program.

Funding comes through state and federal funds such as Carl Perkins and Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) state funds. Funding in the past was compartmentalized. LCFF funds districts and allows us to make local decisions about what the money is used for. We are paid more for our secondary students, which helps to run CTE. The district is also applying for a CTE incentive grant to help expand programs. The district will match the funding we may receive.

The advisory committee can help determine where funds may be spent and which parts of our program we may invest. Perkins funding is due for re-authorization and we are waiting to see when this happens. Perkins' purpose is to prepare students for high skill, high wage or high demand occupations. The current community needs are to be looked at. The Perkins Grant wants to see the integration between career technical education and academics. For example, students do not understand the need for math until they enter an industry that requires it. To bridge this understanding it requires partnerships with secondary schools and post-secondary institutions. We want students to have skills that will help throughout their lifetime to develop in conjunction with education and training programs.

State policy mandates that career technical education is to have a course of study with rigorous content. Once Perkins is reauthorized we will rewrite our BUSD CTE plan.

BUSD has to have qualified CTE teachers and they must have a specific CTE credential aligned to an industry.

We need to be aligned to the model CTE standards and have extensive business and industry involvement. We should have an advisory committee already in place. We need to provide certification of students for proof of their knowledge. CTE shouldn't be an exclusive club; it should be accessible for all students. The standards are in place to an equitable experience for all students.

Within each of the 15 sectors there are pathways. For example, in the transportation sector, there is a pathway for operations, structural repair and refinishing, and systems diagnostics, service and repair, which is the pathway we have in BUSD. There are a few pathways we are working on expanding and tweaking. We are hoping to expand the high school electronics courses into the PLTW engineering courses. To qualify as a pathway, it has to have a minimum of 2 year course study. We currently have 9 pathways in BUSD.

Advisory Committee purposes and goals:

- Verify labor market, wage and earning potentials
- Identify emerging trends and regulatory issues
- Review course sequencing
- Update job titles and requirements
- Review course supplies and equipment
- Review and revise instructional modules
- Verify required skills and tasks
- Verify safety exams, equipment and supplies

The committee will meet about 2-3 times a year. The Committee chair would run the meeting. Members will be confirmed by the Board of education. Attendees were asked to complete a feedback form to find out who would like to participate. Teachers will also be represented on the committee.

We will have possibly 2 more meetings this year – one to look into data and the other to look at the Perkins budget and where to allocate funds.

John Kelsall - We need to encourage team building and enforce soft skills, are we addressing those needs? We are seeing students that lack these type of skills.

Julio Guzman – We participate in competitions with students to emphasize skills and hands on tasks, the students do mock interviews with an industry customer. Students practice speaking to clients in such a way to complete the task without upsetting the client. This helps build their customer relations skills. We made it to the nationals and won our first silver medal. Kids were jazzed. We encourage them to always strive for the best, you never know when you're going to meet up with a CEO or someone important. We prepare them for the "what ifs." It's critical to build up team awareness. This is a soft skill that is missing. Students want to succeed as a group. This program brought that level of students up to working as a team.

Colleen McKinley - All of our kids need to be learning those soft skills. In BUSD we want students to be able to explore, but also provide pathways for those that know what they want to do. Most kids don't know what they want to do when they are in high school. We want to provide the ability to do introductory exploratory things so they can sample different sectors. Standards are shifting now so the focus is more on reading, writing, listening and speaking. So not only our CTE students, but kids in general will be held accountable for those skills. Kids in a traditional classroom of sit and get do not leave with helpful skills because the classroom environment is not how the real world works.

Gerard Greenidge - Can Science Olympiad be infused into secondary pathway?

Colleen McKinley – That is an option outside of CTE. Do we want to seek out and expose them to more competition? Perkins funding says they have to participate in SkillsUSA or FHA Hero. The curriculum prepares them for this competition and we are trying to expand this.

Mike Castro - UTI has competition in February. We also do STEM presentations at the high schools. We can host events at our school. A lot of administrators don't know enough about the technical institutes.

Colleen McKinley - There is a lot of work to do. The District is investing and expanding on the facilities side as well as the instructional side. It's hard to imagine how long things take but we keep taking steps forward to improve programs for our kids. With PLTW, we are hoping to add Engineering at BHS and MHS.

Colleen concluded with expressing that we are grateful that you made it here this evening and are looking forward to partnering with them to support our CTE programs. She shared that she would stay for any individual questions.