

Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee Notes

January 12, 2023

Members in Attendance:

Berry, Paul
Blake, Sarah
Bolles, Thomas
Chappell, Eliza
Duke, Jodi
Franklin, Todd
Garant, Jay

Hopkins, Barbara
Lewis, Mary
Minton-Eversole, Theresa
Parker, Joseph
Thieberger, Paul
Varkonyi, Irvin

Absent Members:

Bechtel, Matt
Crispino, Lauren
Evans, Craig
Frank, Andrew
Gonzalez, Juan Pablo
Krezel, Alexa
Lima-Whitney, Alice

Phillips, Adam
Portillo-Gomez, Manny
Raj, Anitha
Sanghera, Kammy
Siddhi, Saanvi
Smith, Shonna
Williams, Wendy

The regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board's Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) was called to order on January 12, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. by Joseph Parker, Vice Chairman. The meeting was held in 1002A/B of 8270 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031. The option to attend virtually was made available via Zoom.

Call to Order and Opening Remarks – Todd Franklin and Joseph Parker

School Board Update – Melanie Meren

Tonight, the superintendent will be presenting her proposed budget. This is the baseline, and what's being offered, and it will be public after tonight with all the materials. Generally, the budget is made up of funding our staff, who provide all the education to our students. It's about a 3 billion budget. There's usually somewhere around \$100,000 or so that the School Board gets to give input on. That's been a criticism of the School Board's had because we'd like to really know what's in that 3 billion, and how we can better use those funds since the superintendent is new.

The Capital Improvement Plan is on the table for this month and that deals with renovations and facilities and boundaries. The 3 billion budget, doesn't include anything about renovation and such but that is also open to the public. Right now, you can read those documents, and the School Board will approve that in February, and the budget will be approved in April.

The superintendent now also includes an Academic Matters portion of the regular meetings, which has been really interesting, where she will provide data about different topics such as COVID recovery, ESOL, and a variety of other academic topics.

Workstreams: Special Education, Economically Disadvantaged, and English for Speakers of Other Languages – Joseph Parker

Reinforce a couple of things that are being said about early engagement and looking at things that we could do to get a career focus aligned with the CTE offerings before in middle schools. Group discussed Summer Academy and how students could get school credit rather than just participation credits. Sarah Blake would investigate it to see if this can be a possibility.

Group will look into business or nonprofits could provide grants for the economically disadvantage students. Paul Thieberger will look into companies such as Mail Wood, and Joseph Parker will help look into companies that would also offer grants.

Transportation was also discussed, since it a problem, group is looking into seeing if a mobile unit or class could help with the transportation issue.

Workstreams Debrief: Business and Industry – Irvin Varkonyi

How do we engage better and understand better key points. We need to decide whether we have a centralized or decentralized approach to reaching out to the business community - that lead to a couple of comments on whether CTE itself could perhaps have program managers have a responsibility to reach out to businesses.

Jay made a point that we need fidelity in approaching the business community, in other words, all of us need to be working from the same model and approach whether it's centralized or decentralized.

Irvin made a comment that FCPS in terms of how it looks at CTE and workforce development, it focuses greatly on the advance degree, less so on the standard degree. We're encouraging our students to go on to higher education, but numbers may show that in fact, there is a decreasing amount of enrollment in colleges, and increasing amount high school graduates either going into career fields or perhaps going through community colleges like NOVA to prepare for career fields. How much is CTE doing to prepare those students.

Workstreams Debrief: Early Engagement CTE

No one from workstream present

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2023, 8:30 a.m. Willow Oaks Rooms 1002A/B. Zoom option will be available.

Mission Statement: To provide advice to the school administration and the School Board on career and technical education programs and initiatives for the purpose of improving the effectiveness of these programs and associated courses in providing students with the knowledge and skills that contribute to their preparation for the workforce, military, and/or continuing education in a competitive global economy, and to help the schools obtain support and participation from the business community and the public.

Committee Charge: In collaboration with key stakeholders, ensure equitable awareness, access, and participation in all CTE programs. Ensure greater awareness of career-readiness options provided by CTE programs with a new emphasis on exposure to working in a virtual or hybrid workplace, workforce trends, and growing leadership skills.

Issues related to Career and Technical Education should be submitted in writing to the executive council for consideration as future agenda items.