Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee Notes

November 14, 2019

P Charles Britt A Cara Kirby P Jayant Reddy
P Eliza Chappell P Alexa Krezel P Kammy Sanghera
A Laura Jane Cohen P Hyunsik Lim P Shonna Smith
P Sue Eaton A Sarah Luthra A Melanie Stover
A Craig Evans P Theresa Minton-Eversole P Irvin Varkonyi
A Sridar Ganesan P Joseph Parker A Tina Williams
A Jay Garant A Adam Phillips A Wendy Lindquist Williams
A Bryan Graham P Mary Porter A John Wittman
A Christian Ianni P Anitha Raj A Yuyan Zhou

*A = Absent   P = Present

The regular meeting of the Fairfax County School Board’s Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) was called to order on November 14, 2019, at 8:30 a.m. by Charles Britt, Chairman. The meeting was held in rooms 3050/3051 of Gatehouse Administrative Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.

CTEAC Sub Committee Focus – Presentation by CTE Office

- Program Resource Gaps – Amy Granahan
  - Current FCPS Course Offerings
    - 7 program areas available for HS
    - 3 program areas available for MS
    - 6 academies
    - 4 offsite programs
  - Course Partnerships
    - Examples Real Food for Kids, Bright Horizons, Capital Caring, Fair Oaks Mall
- Summer Career Academy and Partnerships – Jenn Alpers
  - Goal: Provide enrichment programming that exposes students to Career and Technical Education (CTE) program areas and pathways.
  - 3 Camp Offering (1 week in length)
    - Tech Explores (Grades 3 - 5)
    - Tech Pioneers (Grades 6 - 8)
    - CTE Summer Academy (Grades 9 - 12)
• CTE Courses for Credit
  ▪ Grades 11 - 12
  ▪ 4 weeks
• Looking to partner with outside organizations to provide guest speakers for students
  ▪ Speakers would align with class and course offerings for camp
  ▪ Example: Bringing in an EMT to talk with students in the Health and Nutrition pathway.

• CTE and Communications and Community Relations – Matt Bechtel
  • Redesign websites: To best utilize the Career Cluster framework and multiple avenues of post-secondary education and employment opportunities for students.
  • Redesign Finance Park Posters: This redesign will outline definitions of the 16 career clusters and providing students with:
    ▪ An outline of the pathways associated with those clusters
    ▪ Sample occupations
    ▪ Top-in demand skills such as budgeting, project management and soft skills (communication, collaboration, planning and organization)
  • Podcast: We are in the early stages of our “spotlighting podcasts” where we will be highlighting our students, teachers and programs within CTE.
    ▪ By building familiarity and engaging the listeners around common interests, the podcast platforms will help us provide further information and celebrations around our students and the personnel that are making our programs such a great success.
  • #CelebrateYourPlan
    ▪ We are encouraging and supporting FCPS students by celebrating their current and post-secondary plans through social media. Whether it’s a gap year, a two year college, a four year college, the military, a certification program, or straight to the workplace, every student should be celebrated.

• Advocacy to Industry and Community – Matt Bechtel
  • Youth Entrepreneurs and Washington Redskins - In process
    ▪ supplemental curriculum for Entrepreneurship Teachers
  • Emboldenme - In process
    ▪ No cost career awareness program for students to explore career interests and grow as leaders.
    ▪ Connections are available to expose students to career sectors and professional networks.
  • CTE Career Connections in FCPS
    ▪ Hosted in FCPS sometime in February by Crystal Thrower, R. Apprenticeship Coordinator in VA.
    ▪ Apprenticeships and Skilled Workforce Career Fair at Edison Academy
      ▪ Over 60 exhibitors and 8 schools bussed high school students over
    ▪ NOVA Career Exploration Fair
• High school students interested in exploring CTE programs at their Annandale Campus
  - Work-Based Learning
    - Connecting the Classroom to Authentic Learning Experiences
      - Career Awareness: Experiences increase student awareness of their own personal interests and talents along with the education and training needed to pursue a career goal. These experiences can begin in elementary school and can lead to career exploration starting in the middle school years.
      - Career Exploration: Encourages students to develop personal career interests, a better understanding of pathways to a chosen career, and the skills needed to make informed decisions regarding secondary and postsecondary education. These experiences are shorter in duration and can lead to informed decisions about academic and career planning.
      - Career Preparation: Experiences deepen student knowledge and develop skills necessary for success in employment and postsecondary education. Experiences take place over a longer timeframe and involve more responsibilities which provide necessary on the job training to replicate the current and future world of work.
    - WBL Tool Kit
      - Website will provide students, parents, instructional, and employers with a one-stop shop to access resources that spell out what is involved in each of the WBL experiences.
  - Parent Teacher Association (PTA) – Kendria Valle
    - Ideas for Toolkit
      - CTE and Academy Overview
        - Links to resources and websites
      - Academic and Career Planning
        - How to access
        - How to use
        - Career Pathways
      - Post Secondary Options

**Break Out Feedback: Program Resource**
- Waiting to find out results of study to determine what courses are missing. Logistics and event planning courses mentioned as being missing.
- Importance of having quality course partnership; should be a win-win for both students and company partnering.
- Need for business members to support the Virginia Department of Education with curriculum review. What is being taught should be current and relevant with what is needed on the job.
• Eliza Chappell is willing to create something to share with CTE program managers on what employers are saying is needed in the workforce or is lacking in those individuals that are interviewing for jobs.

Break Out Feedback: Summer Career Academy and Partnerships

• Emboldenme (Mary Porter)
  - Opportunity to recruit for summer enrichment
  - PTA

• Finance Park (Mary Porter)
  - Instead of posters potentially utilize video
  - Project on walls, YouTube, other platform for students to view on phones, etc.

• Summer Enrichment Plan (Mary Porter and Charles Britt)
  - FACS - change to Hospitality and or Culinary
  - Trade and Industrial - change to Automotive and _______ (what’s being taught)
  - Utilize student language
  - Schedule: 3 offerings (July 6-24)
    - What camps are already scheduled for this time? Credit Recovery?
    - Are we able to offer at a time that doesn’t overlap with many other opportunities?
    - May see rise in enrollment if we’re not competing with others.
  - Possible to involve The Foundation and their business partners?
  - Possible to involve Virginia Chamber of Commerce? Ask for input based on future employment needs?
  - Business and Marketing should not be listed with Computer Science
    - Not elaborated on, may want to ask for clarification
  - Possibly include business partners to help with lesson planning
    - Utilize CTEAC for connections/ bringing businesses to the planning table
  - Thoughts about populations who cannot afford tuition
    - Beth Downey shared that we’d love for businesses and PTA to sponsor or offer scholarships. We cannot at this time because three quarters of programs need to be self-sustaining (Tech Explorers, Pioneers, and Experiences).
    - Tiered system in place for the academy credit program

Break Out Feedback: CTE and Communications and Community Relations

• Suggestion to have Career Clusters website for Finance Park be app-based where students can connect with the content as soon as they hit the bus ride home to their schools. Middle school students are connected to their cellphones; important to package the career cluster end-of-day experience in a way that is easily accessible once they leave Finance Park.

• Posters for Finance Park were well received. The only suggestion was to move to a system that is fully engaging and more dynamic where students take full advantage of what is being presented to them during this short period of time.
Break Out Feedback: Advocacy to Industry and Community

- Work Based Learning Tool Kit
  - Suggestion to modify Employer Expectations document by adding a section for how students could and should be compensated for intellectual property that is developed in school or off-site at the workplace. These opportunities exist and an additional agreement section should be included to spell out what this will look like for all parties involved in the WBL experience.
  - Group liked the idea of the tool kits and how it will spell out what each individual WBL experience looks like from the student, parent, school and employer perspective.
  - Joseph Parker and Shonna Smith both suggested that they would be willing to provide us with potential connections to professionals inside their own networks.
  - Joseph said he has over 200 contacts he could share with FCPS.
  - Shonna is working with Liberty MS after school program through a coding club and is looking to expand outreach opportunities to some of our other schools in FCPS.

Break Out Feedback: PTA

- Would like to collect data from elementary and middle schools to see which schools host career days, why career days are hosted, what students get out of it, and examples of career day models in the elementary and middle schools.
  - From the data they would like to create a package/tool kit for PTA’s to host career days at elementary and middle schools.
- Feel that there is a gap in middle school transition; what are schools saying and doing about the middle school transition. How can we expand the conversation in late elementary to make sure students are choosing electives related to their skills and career interests.
- Social Media Campaign
  - PTA’s share events on Facebook pages, would like to be able to share what is going on with CTE via Facebook.
  - #connectinglearningtotherealworld
  - Use the PTA to advertise CTE opportunities
- Not enough PTA pyramid meetings and would like to include more elementary schools in the discussion.
- Graduation requirements may get in the way of students taking CTE courses

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2019, 8:30 a.m. **Gatehouse Administrative Room 2050/2051**

If schools are closed or there is a delayed opening, the CTEAC meeting will be canceled.

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 industry, develop strategies and support for continuing improvement in coordination and communication of CTE programs.

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