

Joint Meeting of Career and Technical Board of Trustees and Career and Technical Education Trust

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday, February 12, 2016, at 9:00 am, Cranston Area Career and Technical Center, Cranston, Rhode Island.

Members and Attendees:

The following members of the Board of Trustees were present: Bob Baldwin, Tim Byrne, , Victoria Gailliard-Garrick, Michael Grey, Raymond Johnson, Al Lubrano, Bill McCourt, Jeannine Nota-Masse, and Stephen Osborn.

The following members of the Board of Trustees were absent: Bill Bryan, Shannon Carroll, Peter Petrarca, Stefan Pryor, Jim Purcell, and Kathie Shields

The following members of the CTE Trust were present: Lisa Bisaccia, Maura Dunn, John Gregory, and Bill McCourt

The following members of the CTE Trust were absent: Stephanie Federico, Brenna Force, Stefan Pryor, David Rampone, and Martin Trueb.

Acceptance of the Agenda for Today's Meeting:

Upon motion and seconded, it was unanimously
VOTED: To accept the agenda for the meeting

Acceptance of the Meeting Minutes for the Friday, December 4, 2015 Joint Meeting:

Mr. McCourt noted that P-TECH was misspelled in the December 4th minutes.

Upon motion and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the December 4, 2015 joint meeting minutes, with the change that Mr. McCourt noted.

Open Forum:

Mr. McCourt asked that the group discuss the ramifications of P-TECH schools being located outside of CTE Centers, and in the comprehensive high schools. He noted that there was currently no forum in which the board can discuss the next wave of P-TECH schools.

Mr. Osborn stated that he will ensure that P-TECH becomes an agenda item at the next meeting and that he will invite the Department of Labor and Training to jointly present on the initiative.

Mr. McCourt asked that a representative from the Dept. of Commerce be present at the next CTE Board meeting to be able to engage with the group on the discussion of the location of P-TECH schools. He expressed concern over the process for how new programs get adopted and that it is possible there was a conflict with the objectives of the CTE Board.

Mr. Baldwin stated that the schools located in comprehensive high schools may be siphoning money away from the CTE Center Budgets.

Upon motion and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To add P-TECH to the next agenda of the joint meeting.

Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees and President of the CTE Trust:

Mr. Lubrano stated that the CTE Board of Trustees does not need to adopt by-laws, as long as it follows Roberts Rules of Order.

Ms. Bisaccia stated that the CTE Trust does require by-laws, which the Trust has already adopted.

Mr. Lubrano noted that while there has been a lot of discussion about the taking over schools, it was not set as an objective of the board. The Board of Trustees will focus first on creating standards for priority sector CTE programs to prepare students for jobs in these sectors. He went on to describe that if a school wants to come forward to the Board of Trustees to be taken over, the school would have the right to do so. At that point, the takeover would go to RIDE for approval and then to the Council for K-12 Education for approval. Mr. Lubrano noted that no school has come forward to undergo this process to date.

The chairs described the funding process. Once the Board has adopted standards for priority sectors, these standards will be set as a minimum for any school to receive funds for aligned programs.

There is also a process by which CTE programs become RIDE approved. Programs apply to RIDE to be approved, and the programs need to meet certain threshold criteria. RIDE approval status does not qualify a program for extra funding.

Mr. Osborn explained that categorical aid has been used for two purposes. Primarily this funding is used to reimburse schools and districts for the inherent high cost of programs. The remaining \$1 million was used last year to develop CTE programs in high growth, high wage industries. The remaining funding from this year has not been allocated to date.

Ms. Nota-Masse stated a program that is approved can draw from students within the transportation region and that programs have been approved and funded by RIDE before the standards have been adopted.

Mr. Gregory stated that the Board and the approval process are out of sync. If programs that are not in priority sectors are created now, they may pull students and resources away from the sectors that are high growth and high wage. He asked about who makes the decision about opening a program?

Ms. Bisaccia asked where we should be making investments.

Mr. Baldwin stated that CTE Centers have additional capacity for students and that there should be a moratorium on all new programs

Mr. Lubrano suggested that the Board should suspend startups until the Board specifically delineates a sequence to approve a program

Mr. McCourt stated the board needed to discuss a transition for schools that are not meeting the standards and that the process needs to be done quickly.

Mr. Gregory stated that new programs are diluting resources from the centers.

Mr. Osborn explained that for centers, tuition follows the student. However, the Met and Davies follow the funding formula of Charter schools. There are strong programs in the traditional high schools that we should not forget when we get to approving programs. We need to figure out the appropriate timeline.

Mr. Baldwin suggested that no new money should go out.

Mr. Lubrano asked if RIDE could enable the Board to do oversee program approvals.

Mr. Osborn stated that if there are three new P-TECH schools, we would need a pathway for new programs to open.

Mr. McCourt stated that after the start-up of the P-TECH schools, the schools will start taking money away from CTE programs.

Mr. Osborn responded that the money for P-TECH schools is only for years 1 and 2, because while they are starting with 50-100 students they will grow to more.

Ms. Nota-Masse stated that if there are more pop-up programs, and there are only so many students in the state, at some point we need to put away the antiquated things, but do we need so many of the same programs in the state? Need to evolve to meet the needs of the students in front of us, but we need to do that well, we are fighting over everything to keep running programs.

Mr. Baldwin stated that even if there are 2400 kids in PTECH programs, the construction programs need 20K workers, where are we going to get these workers? Concern is the

fragmentation, P-TECH programs after year 2 – the districts will get stuck with the funding, suggest that the P-TECH programs should be channeled to the existing CTE centers.

Ms. Bisaccia stated that the DLT needs to address the issue of sustainability in the P-TECH presentation, how is it not going to exacerbate the problem of clamoring for students. She asked if any new programs should come through the Board and Trust, and whether the superintendents and RIDE would be on board with it. She stated that the group needed a motion put together that they all approve that the board needs to be the gatekeeper for new programs.

Mr. Osborn stated that program approval only impacted programs that are RIDE approved.

Mr. Baldwin asked if school committees and superintendents know whether the Board exists.

Ms. Notta-Masse responded that they know. She stated that she approved a program in Cranston for EMT preparation and that the program was aligned with the work the Board was doing.

Ms. Dunn stated that we might want to define what constitutes as a CTE program so we don't have issues with pop-up programs.

Mr. Osborn stated that RIDE wants to work with the Board to support the work. RIDE has a clear definition of a CTE program and does not have the authority to prevent programs that are classified as electives from starting since they do not ask for CTE approval from the state.

Ms. Nota- Masse stated that she wants to make sure the centers have support, so that they are excellent places for kids to go. And that they are not trying to dilute resources for the state.

Mr. Grey noted that the Board needs to approve programs that align to the Governor's Workforce Board and Commerce priority lists and that this process needs to be data driven. He continued that the people we graduate from our systems need to have high skills so that we can become a high skill state. How are we going to measure the product of the programs? We need a definable bar that we agree on. If there are high quality programs that are hitting areas that are underrepresented, we need to make sure that those programs are providing equity of access. Need to have a strategy, need to implement it, and need to ensure that there is equity across the programs

Ms. Nota-Masse noted that if we are going to start approving programs, then we are going to be spending a lot of time together.

Ms. Bisaccia stated that we need to systematize approval

Ms. Gailliard-Garrick asked about the outcomes, stating that we need to measure things beyond college and career readiness.

Mr. Lubrano put forward that it is the desire of this committee that going forward we place a moratorium on any new programs and that any new programs would need to be approved by the board according to the standard. If we are to consider any new programs, we would have RIDE provide a recommendation. Motion would say that exceptions would be considered here. Moving forward there is a moratorium on programs, that any potential program must be considered for review by this year, that funding structures stay in place for this year, and that next fiscal year (16-17) they will be allocated by this board.

Mr. Baldwin stated that in Connecticut, they have a process for program approval and phasing out programs. The program has three years to wind down, so that students are not closed down in the middle of their experience.

Mr. Lubrano stated that we can establish an overseeing process, but the details will be left to RIDE and the districts. RIDE should establish the process, and the board will approve it.

Ms. Bisaccia noted that the group may have split motions. The CTE Trust and CTE board may have different purposes. She offered a motion for the Board that there be a moratorium for new CTE programs as of today going forward, and that any exceptions would be considered by the Board. For the Trust: motion that funding for current programs stay the same, but the next year's budget should come before the Trust, and that those programs will be continued business as usual.

Ms. Nota-Masse noted that her budget for school year 16-17 is done. She worried about the time frame that has been established for next year.

Mr. Osborn stated that high cost reimbursement would stay the same.

Ms. Bisaccia added that any of the in-flight budgets would stay the same and that she was looking to RIDE to establish the process to consider new programs, but generally looking for the 17-18 budget. She noted that what we need to do is have the motion for the board and the trustees first. The board and trust would have to approve separately. She added that we are not going to fund any new programs that have already been approved. Any program that has not previously received funding would need to be approved through the trust and board

Upon motion and seconded, Trust members unanimously

VOTED: to accept the motion that RIDE will develop a process whereby all discretionary funding for CTE programs, whether federal, state, private or other, for fiscal year 2017/2018 will be identified and presented to the Trust Board for allocation. It is the Trust Board's intent to allocate discretionary funding based on compliance or good faith efforts to comply with the CTE Board's standards for CTE programs for defined industry sectors. To the extent the CTE Board has not yet finalized program guidelines/standards for an industry sector, it is the Trust Board's intention to maintain historical funding levels (proportional to funding

availability) until new guidelines/standards have been published. Any new discretionary funding for additional CTE programs, at both CTE Centers and comprehensive high schools, for fiscal year 2016/2017 will be allocated and approved by the Trust Board. RIDE will develop a process to identify and present funding requests or funding opportunities to the Trust Board. Funding for current programs remains unaltered for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, based on established commitments.

Upon motion and seconded, Board members unanimously

VOTED: To accept the motion that effective immediately, there will be a moratorium on new CTE programs, at both CTE Centers and comprehensive high schools. Any exceptions must be considered and approved by the CTE Board; the expectation is that their programs will be in compliance with the program standards developed and approved by the Board for each industry sector. Any new marine manufacturing programs currently in development that are designed to support Electric Boat may proceed but program guidelines and standards must meet the US Navy Standards.

Mr. Osborn stated that RIDE, in partnership with higher education and the Board/Trust, would be applying for the New Skills of Youth Grant. RIDE's participation in the career readiness initiative has led to applying for this grant in two different phases: Phase 1 due on March 2nd, would help RIDE develop a cross disciplinary team and the grant would be for \$1 Million. Then they could apply for Phase 2 of the grant focusing on finding solutions for the issues of teacher certification, higher education credit for prior learning experience. RIDE is building the proposal to share out with people and will be coordinating the state team. Phase 2 will have a lot of public engagement that will require this group to participate.

Ms. Bisaccia asked if the money would go to the Trust.

Mr. Osborn answered that he was not sure how the money could flow since the LEA must apply for the grant, though the Trust would be consulted.

Mr. McCourt noted that the grant should be connected to the Governor's Workforce Board and that DLT has funding available for CTE, so we should maintain a connection. He suggested that DLT's available funding should be held by the Trust.

Mr. Osborn noted that he has been working with DLT on the health careers work and that there is a lot of collaboration happening.

Mr. McCourt stated that the Governor needs to ask her cabinet to work together on CTE and to have the CTE work go through this Board. He noted that Secretary Pryor was not present at the meeting.

Mr. Byrne asked if we could get the approval of the standards at the top of the list.

Mr. Lubrano noted that the next priority sector to talk about was information technology.

Mr. McCourt noted that Kathie Shields was no longer on the tech collective, but that they tech collective would be able to provide someone to help with the sector.

Mr. Osborn noted that after IT, the next sector to explore in terms of number of students served is in hospitality and tourism, which aligns with the Brookings Institute list.

Mr. Baldwin asked if we should have automotive and diesel higher on the list. He noted that there are a lot of needs for diesel programs.

Mr. Osborn noted that automotive and diesel is not on the list of priority sectors for the Governor's Workforce Board.

Mr. Osborn then explained that a process has been put together for putting standards together within each sector. A copy of the process was provided in the packet.

Ms. Dunn noted that the process was very thorough.

Upon motion and seconded, it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the written process for creating standards for priority sectors, as written in the accompanying handout.

Discussion of Proposed Changes to the High School Graduation Requirements

Mr. Osborn explained that RIDE is working rethinking how RI approaches high school graduation. RIDE does not have a formal recommendation, but is doing outreach to get feedback on some ideas. RIDE will follow this meeting with a survey for the group to respond to. The ideas build on the strategic plan vision of the state. The state's graduation rate has gone up in the last five years by five percentage points, but is still the lowest in the region.

Mr. Osborn went on to explain that college and career readiness was important. SAT fees will be eliminated as of the Governor's announcement last week. 40% of students are prepared for college according to the SAT and two thirds of students going to CCRI have to take remedial courses.

Ms. Dunn stated that we need to think about students who don't go to CCRI and that not every student goes to college. She urged the group to keep in mind that the strategic plan calls for preparation for work and life, as well as college.

Mr. Osborn went on to explain that if the regulations do not change, students will need to pass the PARCC test to graduate from high school.

Mr. Osborn also explained that RIDE is considering 4 main components of the high school diploma: literacy and numeracy proficiency, a personalized pathway, coursework, and a performance based assessment. He explained that there is a consideration to have a menu of

options to show literacy and numeracy proficiency, which may include getting a credential from a CTE program.

Ms. Gailliard-Garrick asked how the personalized pathway would be measured.

Mr. Osborn answered that it is less of something that would be measured and more something that would be offered. Measurement would be determined at a local level.

Mr. Osborn went on to explain that there would be an additional component of a state endorsement for learning within a pathway, such as the Arts, business & industry, or STEM.

Mr. Osborn completed the presentation with an explanation of the process by which RIDE is soliciting feedback: first in role-alike groups, then to community members more broadly, then there will be a public comment period, and finally there would be adoption from the Council in June.

Ms. Nota-Masse noted that there needs to be more focus on the elementary level backed by RIDE so that career exploration and personalized pathways are possible at the high school level.

Mr. Lubrano stated that what matters the most is the literacy and numeracy skills of students. What he sees is that students can't write emails or a letter, etc.

Mr. Byrne stated that soft skills are important. Students need to know how to show up on time, professionalism skills. These are woefully lacking which compounds the literacy and math problems. Students need an ability to read directions.

Mr. McCourt noted that what he got back from the manufacturing committee was that the HS diploma was the baseline for the work. There has been a lot of softness put around the graduation requirements. High School diploma doesn't mean a lot to employers. It's only a baseline. A GED is more valuable than a High School diploma because it is showing more initiative.

Ms. Dunn stated that many young people are going from part-time job to part-time job and by the time they get to be twenty-two they have had a bunch of false starts, but then they get it.

Mr. Johnson stated that it is a maturity issue. There are very few students who can go right into the workforce after high school.

Ms. Dunn stated that we need to find a way to accelerate the maturity through high school so that students who don't go to college can get a job.

Ms. Nota-Masse said that RIDE leadership is changing the tune on all students going to college. That is where the pathways come in.

Mr. Baldwin stated that while looking at programs in the top five states in the US, the message students get from Kindergarten on is that they are in school to learn to get a job that they are good at so if they so choose, they can go to college,. The message the child gets is to learn to get a job. Academic work should prepare students for the option of college.

Mr. Lubrano stated that for the purpose of the Board, they will work in steps. Step one is to get the standards in order and get CTE on track. Step two would be to get the marketing plan right, we need to get through to people that these are good jobs and that students need to go out and get them.

Mr. Baldwin noted that the level of maturity rises when students are doing something that they really like.

Ms. Dunn asked if Davies can teach a student to come out and look you in the eye, why can't a high school?

Discussion to Adjourn

Mr. Osborn stated that they next meeting would be on March 18, 2016 at the Woonsocket Career and Technical Center. He said that he would send out information about this to the Board and Trust.

Mr. McCourt mentioned that he would send out information about the Manufacturing Summit at RI College on Mt. Pleasant Avenue in Providence from 8-2:30 on March 9, 2016. There would be a breakout group for CTE.

Mr. Baldwin stated that on March 17, 2016 he would be leading a group to the Worcester Career and Technical Center. Anyone that wanted to join should see him.

Mr. Baldwin also mentioned that the RI Builders Association Home Show had space open for CTE Directors. The event is March 31, 2016.

Upon motion by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Dunn, the Board of Trustees and CTE Trust unanimously voted to adjourn.