## MEETING MINUTES

# Virginia Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 8, 2023

Four Points by Sheraton, 9901 Midlothian Turnpike, Richmond, VA 23235

### Attendees

**Committee members:** Christie Garton, Dr. Victor H. Gray, Susan Long-Molnar, Darla Miller, Meghan Milo, Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Teri Wiley, Diego Wilson, Dr. Linda Zanin

**VDOE:** Dr. Anthony Williams, Sharon Acuff, Kelly Davis, William Hatch

### Opening Remarks and Welcome

Dr. Sukeena Stephens welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

### Public Comment

No written public comment was submitted, and no one requested to make a public comment.

### INTRODUCTIONS

### Approval of Minutes (January 19, 2023)

The minutes were reviewed. Susan Long-Molnar moved to approve the minutes, Teri Wiley seconded, and the minutes were approved by consent at 9:14 a.m.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

*Dr. Anthony Williams, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Anthony welcomed everyone and noted the new leadership at the Virginia Department of Education, including Dr. Coons, Superintendent. Anthony also mentioned that the 2023 Experience Works conference has been approved by VDOE leadership and that VDOE communications has been tasked with helping with promotion.

**High-Quality Work-Based Learning Update**

*Sharon Acuff, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Sharon presented on the HQWBL experiences. She asked for input regarding the hours students should work to get credit. Currently, 280 hours of HQWBL are required for one credit.

There was discussion among the committee, and it was noted that some jobs are more project-oriented, in which case hours aren’t as relevant. A question came up: If they work more than 280 hours, can a student receive more than one credit? The answer: Currently, no.

Dr. Linda Zanin shared her experience with George Washington University’s partnership with Alexandria Public Schools. There is a challenge for students to participate in HQWBL programs; the 280-hour minimum excludes students who must work (outside HQWBL) to gain income. Also, students have extracurricular activities (e.g., sports) that limit the amount of HQWBL they can participate in. Therefore, 280 may be too high a requirement for credit. The amount of hours is also a barrier for many businesses to participate.

It is also difficult for businesses to commit to 140 hours of mentorship, but it seems the mentor has flexibility; i.e., the mentor does not have to be in direct contact with the student for 140 hours.

Anthony explained that much of HQWBL is built around the co-op model, and that is how we got the minimum hours.

Sharon provided an update on HQWBL Guide. Revisions have been approved, but it has to be open for public comment (on Town Hall) for 30 days. More revisions may be necessary afterward. Many revisions were related to students with disabilities. There is also a new section for English Learners.

Sharon was asked how feedback from the field should be communicated, and Anthony answered that the public comment period is the appropriate channel. He said the Advisory Committee should register for Town Hall. It was agreed that VDOE and Advisory Committee need to educate the public about using Town Hall to make comments.

Sharon described the upcoming Experience Works conference.

**Curriculum & Instruction Update**

*Kelly Davis, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Kelly highlighted the state CTSO leadership conferences, and Advisory Committee members who attended and judged events at DECA and SkillsUSA reported how rewarding the experience was. The members were impressed by the students’ performances and by the enthusiasm shown during the awards ceremony. It was agreed that the events need more judges. How can the Advisory Committee help? One idea is to record video testimonials by business and industry and other observers of contests to promote the events.

Kelly showed the schedule of summer professional development conferences for teachers and noted that many business/industry partners are involved and play a big role in motivating the teachers. The issue of attendance at summer conferences was discussed. Membership in teacher associations is not at the level it could be or used to be. It is difficult to get teachers to come during the summer.

Kelly outlined the initiatives in process, including curriculum review, the New Teacher Institute, and Career Success Stars.

**Funding Update**

*William Hatch, CTE Planning, Administration & Accountability Coordinator, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Bill reported a federal funding (Perkins V) increase of $32 million and noted that it is distributed according to a federal formula that addresses local distribution, state leadership (VDOE, VCCS, Corrections), and administration.

Bill described how state funding from the Virginia General Assembly goes toward Workplace Readiness Skills, industry credentials, and CTE equipment. He announced that no money is being returned to the state this year for the first time in recent memory, because school divisions are spending all the money. Additional state funding includes the Competitive Grant for Skilled Trades Programs; $3 million has been awarded to 24 divisions. Also, through the Innovative Program Equipment Grants for High Demand and Fast Growth Industry Sectors, $600,000 has been awarded to 16 recipients.

A committee member asked how the grant tracked, and Bill answered that each division has to report on how they use the money and what they will do after the award. Kelly noted that during federal program monitoring reviews, the VDOE CTE staff look at how the grant money is spent.

Dr. Stephens suggested that future meetings include more information about what is included in these grants so that the Advisory Committee members can assist when their regions’ divisions apply.

**Industry Credentialing**

*Dr. Anthony Williams, Acting Director, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education*

Anthony noted that all industry credentials fall into one of four categories, which are not well defined. VDOE is doing research and gathering information to better define credentials. He described the criteria for revising and validating industry credentials. He provided a proposed definition and additional criteria for validating industry credentials in the form of a rubric that is made available to the public. Anthony expressed a desire to discuss this more and receive feedback at next meeting.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Susan Long-Molnar gave a presentation summarizing the Hampton Roads Workforce CTE Forum. The purpose of the event was to increase awareness of VDOE CTE initiatives and increase opportunities for business to collaborate with HQWBL. There were about 115 attendees. The event included time for networking, a panel discussion of success stories, and breakout sessions based on career clusters. Susan shared some feedback she received: more hands-on activity (job shadowing, tours, etc.) is needed; students need early exposure to careers and to learn about pay and career path progression; “critical” skills (Workplace Readiness Skills) need more emphasis; more parent engagement is needed (e.g., take-a-parent-to-work days). Susan noted a problem in the fact that more CTE advisors and educators attended than business representatives. She hopes to have more business reps when the next forum is held. Dr. Victor Gray suggested asking each CTE coordinator to bring one business rep to the next forum. Susan offered to help anyone who would like to follow her model in holding a similar event. Her next steps will focus on building relationships between CTE advisors/coordinators and business/industry.

### VIRGINIA ACTE UPDATE

*Darla Miller, Virginia ACTE Liaison*

Darla explained that Virginia ACTE does not lobby the General Assembly; instead, they advocate for CTE. Virginia ACTE hires David Bailey to lobby the legislature. Darla noted that many new legislators will be coming to GA next year, and they will need to be educated about CTE. Gov. Younkin is pushing VCCS to increase credentialing. Secondary CTE is already doing that, but GA members don’t know about it. Darla pointed out that the cost of association membership is prohibitive to many teachers. She invited Advisory Committee members to attend a webinar on Monday, June 12, held by ACTE Region II. She also encouraged members to join Virginia ACTE.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.