## MEETING MINUTES

# Virginia Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 26, 2023

CTE Resource Center, 2002 Bremo Road, Lower Level, Richmond VA 23226

### Attendees

**Committee members:** Christie Garton, Dr. Victor H. Gray, Susan Long-Molnar, Lorin S. Sodell, Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Diego Wilson

**VDOE:** Sharon Acuff, Kelly Davis, William Hatch

### Opening Remarks and Welcome

Dr. Sukeena Stephens welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

### Public Comment

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

### INTRODUCTIONS

### Approval of Minutes (June 8, 2023)

The minutes were reviewed. The minutes were approved by consent at 9:05 a.m.

### CTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

*Dr. Sukeena Stephens, Chair*

Dr. Stephens reminded the committee about suggestions made during the last meeting and asked the committee for their suggestions on initiatives for the year. William Hatch said the *Career and Technical Education High-Quality Work-Based Learning Guide* would be added to the Town Hall, and Dr. Stephens said that finding ways to help people access the guide through Town Hall would be helpful.

The committee explored ways to contribute content to social media to raise the profile of career and technical education, including through LinkedIn and sharing posts/updates. Dr. Stephens asked if anyone had an employer or teacher that they could feature for CTE Month (February), how they relate to CTE, and what they are doing for students.

Dr. Stephens asked the committee to submit questions to be asked for the feature and who will be the point of contact for the board submissions. The board also discussed parameters, the resources, and the contacts for the videos and the deadline for submissions.

### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

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

Ms. Davis gave an update on current initiatives and future work at the VDOE Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education. Among them, she reviewed an effort based on a Governor’s Office initiative to develop pathways for artificial intelligence design. She also noted that the office is working to reduce national accreditation requirements for programs.

Mr. Hatch reminded the committee of the development of a rubric to evaluate credentials and said that one initiative is to develop a tiered list of approved industry recognized credentials. As part of that development, they are trying to reduce the number of approved credentials. Part of the review and development included looking at other states’ credential approval processes.

Ms. Davis informed the board that the office is working to identify and build four new career pathways. Ideas have included AI and fiber optics.

Ms. Acuff updated the committee on Senate Bill 1430, which requires the Virginia Department of Education to convene a stakeholder meeting to make recommendations on reducing barriers to and improving the access of paid work-based learning experiences for English language learners. The stakeholders met twice to investigate accommodations and to identify ways to reduce the barriers. The final report is being finalized and is due to the General Assembly by Nov. 1.

Ms. Davis presented the dates for the student CTSO conferences and for the teacher conferences in 2024.

Ms. Acuff gave an overview of work-based learning specialists serving the superintendent’s regions throughout the commonwealth. She reviewed the hours assigned to high-quality work-based learning opportunities and stated that they are looking at reducing the hours required for the one-credit experiences. A work group will be convened Dec. 12 in Richmond to look at the work hours requirements, to identify a minimum hours requirement to be considered high quality, and to identify criteria to determine what is a high-quality work-based learning experience.

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Lorin Sodel discussed anecdotal evidence that students are less prepared academically for the workforce.

Susan Long-Molnar invited the committee to attend the Peninsula workforce board symposium in November. She noted that Chesapeake is re-creating a program to bring middle school students in for a job fair and that other divisions in the region are considering doing the same.

Diego Wilson praised the VDOE for updating and making more efficient the new course application process.

Christie Garton said that Fairfax County is adding an aviation pathway and a welding pathway and that the county’s WBL opportunities has become part of their accreditation measure for high schools. She said they are working on a database of work-based learning partners and looking at equitable transportation for CTE programs. She said there would be a career exposition for businesses and students in the region in December. Ms. Garton mentioned that the school division is working through an issue where some CTE students can’t be enrolled in dual enrollment courses.

### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.