Joint Committee Meeting – January 7, 2019

A meeting of the Joint Committee of the Western Montgomery Career and Technology Center was held was held at 77 Graterford Road, Limerick, PA on January 7, 2019. Ms. Dawn Heine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M. following the Reorganization Meeting.

JOC Members:

Ashley Custer                                  Mark Dehnert                        Absent
Patricia Grimm                                 Edward Dressler                     Absent
Robert Lindgren                                Dawn R. Heine                       Absent
James C. Glackin                              Stephen Cunningham                  Absent
                                             John Farris

Non-Members present:
Dr. William Shirk, Superintendent, Pottsgrove S.D.
Christopher Moritzen, Administrative Director
Daniel Chominski, Principal
Rachel Hetzel, IT Director
Andrew Klein, Metal Tech Instructor & AFT Treasurer
Marc Davis, Solicitor
Dr. Mike Curley, PA Dept. of Education

A motion was made by Dr. Farris and seconded by Mr. Lindgren to:
approve the JOC Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2018.

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Motion carried 8-0

II. Administrative Director’s Report

Mr. Moritzen reported:

A. Student Competitions:
We have 30 students heading to SkillsUSA competing on January 24, 29 & 30 and striving to receive district gold and head on to states. Updates will be provided as those competitions come out.

B. Recruitment:
Two out of three school districts have completed their 9th grade tours. Pottsgrove should be sending their 9th grade class later in January or early February. Multiple presentations were done at the high schools, 8th & 9th grade levels, lunches, tours we’ve had it here. Currently, we have 135 applications, which is about where we were this time last year. Consistency is good.
C. 2019/2020 Budget:

He met with the Superintendents to review the draft proposal for the 2019/20 school year. We will be hosting the annual Superintendent/Business Managers Meeting on the 23rd and a tentative presentation date of March 4th, which he will be presenting here.

D. Summer Camps:

We are finalizing the teachers that will be doing camps and then we’ll get the flyers & mailers out and all the things that we do every year.

Ms. Heine commented that it was mentioned that potentially there would be change ups.
Mr. Moritzen said different instructors and some modifications to the program. We have some former students who have graduated or in college and want to come back and do a pre-school camp. We’re looking at different things and hopefully offer some certifications to change it up a bit.

E. Potential Program Expansion for the 2020/2021 School Year:

In the goals of always looking to be the best and striving for the best for all the students in the districts that we serve, and also part of a request from our Metal Tech community, which is our welders and manufacturers. We are looking to expand our program to enhance the program itself by offering students more in the field of welding along with manufacturing. He hosted a meeting this afternoon with them. There were 10 representatives from business and industry and had a really good meeting. We are going to put together some data for everyone and make a presentation after we do some student surveying – probably late April or May.

Ms. Heine asked if that would technically be a program change?
Mr. Moritzen said there are several options we could look at. We could look at a modification to the program delivery within the CIP code or we could look at splitting off and changing the CIP code, which isn’t that difficult to do. We would apply to the state and provide a program of study and that’s simple to do. We have all the equipment for that. It’s similar to what we did with Sports Medicine. We like that prior year to promote, recruit and enroll and amp that up and really show kids what manufacturing is all about because there’s a lot more than I think what they understand is available to them in the world of manufacturing.
Dr. Dressler asked if we had a lot of students who are interested in welding program.
Mr. Moritzen said we will be doing a student survey to find out about that. Right now Mr. Klein’s enrollment has grown exponentially. When Mr. Moritzen started five years ago the enrollment was about 13 students, it is now over 31 now. We actually have a lot of non-traditional students in there so a lot of young ladies are getting involved in that field. He thinks with business industry support they are willing to give we will continue to see that number grow.
Dr. Dressler asked what kind of starting salary can these students anticipate.
Mr. Moritzen asked for students going into welding or manufacturing? He replied yes.
Mr. Moritzen said that could range depending on what work ethic they put in here.
Mr. Glackin said Kelly had an offer out of an internship this summer that was $17.50-$18.00 to start and asked Mr. Klein if that sounded about right.
Mr. Klein said that sounded pretty common. He had a student who went thru the Co-Op program and upon graduation was hired by that company, and his starting rate was $18.00 per hr. He successfully demonstrated his abilities thru the co-op program. Depending on the level of skill and experience, $15.00-$18.00 is usually a good entry level start.
Dr. Dressler asked if we had a lot of co-op relationships?
Mr. Moritzen said yes and they are eagerly chomping at the bit to get more students prepared, and it’s more of because the way the CIP code is designed, they get a smattering of welding and a smattering of manufacturing. The business industry would like to see someone more specific in welding or more specific in manufacturing. We have equal parts participation in both welding and manufacturing that are showing interest in getting more of our kids. We would like to be more competitive as a CTC for our kids getting jobs as opposed to a Central or North Montco or LCTI or Upper Bucks that have a
separated program where the kids get more dedicated time behind the welding stick or getting more time behind the manufacturing piece.

Mr. Cunningham said speaking from someone who is in manufacturing, the growth is crazy exponentially because most of the machine shops he works with are middle aged or older gentlemen and some looking to retire. It is a much needed field.

Mr. Moritzen said he will be bringing more information as he has several more meetings set up with the OAC group and teacher. This is more an information session right now to get the information out there.

Dr. Dressler asked Mr. Cunningham in terms of the machine shop is that the manufacturing part you’re talking about?

Mr. Cunningham said a lot of companies make assemblies not only welding. A company he deals with in Maryland is trying to get as many people as possible for welding needs, but the people aren’t there so they’ve been sending things out to get machine welded and then you have to get a guy who can actually run that welder. It’s a constant fight even on our end.

F. New Equipment Arrival:

Due to our grants we were able to get our new other refrigerant machine for Automotive, which students have been working on already. Mr. Klein got his CNC plasma cutting machine and tables installed in Metal Tech. As soon as the state of PA puts the money in the fund, we will be ordering our 3-D Anatomy Table, which we will have a live demonstration on Wednesday afternoon for all the teachers that are involved with that.

G. Safe2Say Something:

Mr. Chominski has been selected our Safe2Say liaison and contact person. Mr. Moritzen plans to schedule a meeting with Bob Harney to get details on how we can efficiently do that from a CTC perspective.

Finally, one last thing – a community service opportunity, which he is happy to announce we are going to take part in. He was able to meet a gentleman who oversees Camp Rainbow over by Spring Mountain in the Upper Perk area. They run a summer camp for underprivileged youth; it is a free camp thru the county and a lot of it is on donations. We saw a good opportunity for our SkillsUSA and Chick-fil-A Leadership kids and also our Construction Trade to help with some projects. They will fund the cost of any materials, but our students are getting an opportunity to give back HVAC is going to check on their systems, Electrical is going to help install some lights, do some cabin clean ups and rebuild cubbies for kids. It’s a cool little camp who takes about 100 kids at a time. It’s a sleepover camp where they come in Sunday night and leave Friday afternoon, but this a something we can sustain as a community service project for years beyond this one. We’re excited to be a part of it. He had Mrs. Long, one of our Skills Advisors out there with me and Tom last week doing a quick walkthrough tour of what we can do to start. Our teachers have been more than accepting to be part of that project and help out.

Ms. Heine said it is such a great opportunity for these kids to be exposed to service. There’s 8 of us sitting around this table who provide a lot of service regularly, and as much as we try to instill that in the kids even at the home school, to make sure that they see that service aspect, that’s fantastic.

Last but not least, Dr. Curley was in town so a quick update from a TAP perspective. We are part of the Technical Assistance Program in the state which provides funding for NOCTI, some Professional Development for Mr. Chominski, Ms. Hetzel and even himself and teachers. He just wanted to give a quick update of what he has seen here at the Western Center.

That concluded the Director’s Report
Dr. Curley said he was a retired Director from Lancaster CTC and assigned to eight schools across the state. He’s actually cut back coming here since there’s not a whole lot to do because things are going so well; that’s what he likes to report. He’s real pleased that he’s been able to be in all the classrooms and the technology that has been put in the building has been a good investment in terms of he’s really seen a lot of it being used. In some of the places that he goes they have one-to-one and have computer carts that don’t get used. Here it’s being used and it’s pretty neat to see what’s going on. He’s really pleased with Mr. Chominski. He’s known him before he came here and he actually listened to stuff I advised him on which was get in the classrooms and actually be in those rooms. Mr. Chominski has shown him some stuff he’s done with his walkthroughs across the building. He thinks it’s really paying some benefits; there’s connections being built. His sense with the Principal’s position and the climate is really greatly improved. A couple other things – a really good effort working with your special ed kids. There’s a high percentage of special ed kids attending these kinds of schools and it takes a special effort to get case management from the home schools and everything working here. Everything that’s being done is indicated in the high NOCTI scores; we’re in the top 25% of test scoring in PA. We’re not supposed to compare to other schools, but Mr. Moritzen makes him do that when he comes in. He has to go thru the count to make sure he’s in the top quartile. He’s very happy, a good place and can answer any questions you may have. If you have a chance to come in for a day and go into the labs to see amazing things going on. You don’t think they can do some of the stuff they do. Questions?

Dr. Dressler said he is naive about so many things in this world and one of them is what is your function is here? Who are you representing?

Dr. Curley said he works for the Dept. of Ed. and they get federal dollars and federal dollars requires the state to provide technical assistance to each school. In PA the way they designed it was a school can volunteer to be in that. Some of the local high schools don’t have that opportunity if they’re on the not performing list and they get assigned people to work with that school district to keep them from failing. In the tech school world, it’s a free service and Mr. Moritzen has been smart enough to volunteer for it. It provides pre-NOCTI testing materials and prep materials, free workshops and PIL courses for administrators are offered thru the program with no charge to the school. They get a retired guy like me to come in and his job is to take a look at the data particularly the NOCTI scores and slice and dice that to see where we can show improvement. We’re at 91% here and doing so much better than the other schools he works with there is not a whole lot of slicing and dicing because each of the programs are performing at a pretty high level with the kids they have.

Dr. Dressler said so you’re representing the Dept. of Education.

The members thanked Dr. Curley for coming.

III. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

IV. Presentations – None

V. Committee Reports

Superintendent of Record’s Report – Dr. Shirk said he had a few comments. First of all, he is happy to be here. His history with the Western Center goes back 20 years. His experience here has been one that I worked as an Assistant Principal at both Upper Perk and Spring-Ford so he’s been out here for many different reasons over the course of his career and as Principal at Upper Perk he was here for eight years. He has seen the construction pieces we’ve done and all the upgrades we’ve made and the staffing changes along the way. Now, in my role at Pottsgrove, he feels he’s really in a great position to help the organization. He’s had a chance to work with Mr. Moritzen going on five years, and not so much Mr. Chominski, but we’ll catch up. He’s excited about the opportunity to move it forward and he and Mr. Moritzen have had a couple preliminary meetings thus far about some of the things he thinks are important such as education, instruction, professional development, budget – things that are all near and dear to everybody’s heart, and communication components as well. These are things we’ve discussed preliminary and we’ll continue to have more discussions. Next week one of the things he really wants to do is meet with the
staff. He wants to introduce them to him and introduce him to them and let them know that we’re here to work together and give them an avenue if need be as this organization moves forward. Again, he’s happy to be here and to serve and looking forward to working with everybody around the table.

Business Manager’s Report – Ms. Donna Wilson – No Report

Principal’s Report – Mr. Dan Chominski said an update on student successes in different things we have going on in the building:

- As you know we do an attendance contest every month between all the different shops. December Mr. Klein’s A.M. Metal Tech Program, took it home with 99%. One kid missed one day in December, which is phenomenal. In the P.M. Early Childhood took it home with 98 percent. In November, Mrs. Pletcher’s A.M. CEO/Voices Program took it home with 97% and in the P.M. Dental Occupations took it home with over 96%.
- We ran a canned goods food drive in December and collected 241 canned goods for the Wings of Victory. Carpentry won that competition and was treated to pizza cooked by the Culinary classes.
- In general, our students have been fantastic. In class they are focused, attentive and hard working. Kudos to you and your parent stakeholders on that.
- On February 20th, we will be doing Mock Interviews day with our students. We have industry professionals coming in and interviewing all of our seniors and giving them feedback on how they did. We feel that interviewing is a skill and that it is essential that our students work on it while here.
- We’re starting to gear up for NOCTI as well. NOCTI takes place March 18th to 29th and April 10th performance day. We have planned events to get our students focused, excited and ready to go for NOCTI including spirit days on Wednesdays in February and March. Mrs. Mueller is taking the lead on NOCTI.
- Starting February 6 we are partnering with MCCC, where they will be teaching industry math course here for Juniors & Seniors. It will take place from Feb. 6 to March 20. It is a 6 week course that students can use for remedial math if they choose to go to MCCC or use it as industry resume builder taught by industry professionals offered at a discounted rate for our students. They will come to school and stay here and from 2:30 to 3:50 on Monday & Wednesday. We’re very excited about that.

Dr. Dressler asked what the math was called.
Mr. Chominski responded industry math.
Dr. Dressler then asked what does that look like?
Mr. Chominski said essentially an industry professional basically created a curriculum of all the different math skills needed for working in manufacturing and reinforcing the math skills needed for the student in industry. A lot of reinforcement of skills and applying those math skills in the auto industry or manufacturing.
Mr. Cunningham asked if he saw the home schools helping out in any way? Obviously, it’s an add-on, an extra, he gets that, but is there any way that the math departments could come to help?
Mr. Chominski said he hasn’t passed it out to them. We will be advertising to our students this week, talk to them a little bit, put it on announcements, put it out to the parents, but I can certainly push it out to the sending school Principals.
Ms. Heine asked Mr. Chominski how he came across that.
Mr. Chominski said Dave DiMattio came to us in early September and wanted to partner with us to really start dual enrollment with our students to add different credentials and entry level courses. We didn’t want to jump full in with English and Math there’s a lot of pre-test and things you have to do to enroll in the college beforehand so we didn’t want to go there yet. We thought this would be a good stepping stone and a very valuable tool for our students to do
Mr. Moritzen said we wanted to set something up once we finalized the articulation agreement, which was finally signed in September. We wanted to work on a dual enrollment opportunity for our students and this was an easy nice stepping stone to kind of work our way into that. We had worked with Dave over a year to finalize the articulation agreement because they had changeover in staff. The person who was supposed to approve it left so we were waiting for that. As you know, some of our students can earn up to 25 crccits in certain classes from MCCC walking out the door just by being here 3 years and passing the NOCTI with an advanced score. This was a nice little add-on and we’re looking to grow that dual enrollment as we go year to year. Trying to create more opportunities for the kids.

Dr. Dressler commended Mr. Moritzen on that.

Mr. Moritzen said it was a team effort and they did it all together. He doesn’t want to take all the credit. Mr. Chominski worked hard on the dual enrollment and he worked hard on the articulation agreement and constantly asking and asking them; we’re persistent and it pays off. We’re happy for the kids. Hopefully, it will work out well and we’ll go from there.

Board Secretary’s Report – No Report

Solicitors Report – Mr. Marc Davis, Esq. – No Report

VI. Action Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Grimm to:
approve A. Personnel in its entirety

A1. The appointment of Dr. William R. Shirk, Superintendent, Pottsgrove S.D., to the position of Superintendent of Record for a two-year term starting in January, 2019 at an $8,400 stipend.

A2. Approving a $500.00 Mentor Stipend for Don Bray, Automotive Instructor, Mentor to William Soleau, new Automotive Instructor.

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Motion carried 8-0

A motion was made by Ms. Grimm and seconded by Mr. Cunningham to:
approve all of B. Conferences/Student Competition

B1. Approving Christopher Moritzen, Director, to attend and present at the 29th Annual PACTA Symposium: Pathways to Career Readiness Conference at the Hershey Lodge Convention Center on February 14 & 15, 2019 for an approximate cost of $180.

B2. Approving Stephanie German, Early Childhood Education Instructor, and 5 students to attend the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Leadership Conference at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort, Seven Springs, PA on March 20-22, 2019 for an approximate cost of $2,209.00, which will be paid through fundraising with no cost to WMCTC. One Advisor will be attending for the approximate cost of $450.00.
B3. Approving Anne Marie Yusko, Student Service Secretary, to attend the PIMS Data Summit on March 24-27, 2019 at Hershey, PA for an approximate cost of $834.00.

A motion was made by Ms. Grimm and seconded by Ms. Cunningham to: approve of C. Finance

Approving the Cash Receipts and List of Bills as shown in Appendix B

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Motion carried 8-0

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Grimm to: approve D. Contracted Services and E. iPAD Purchase

D. Approving for recycling of either defective, obsolete or both assets as shown in Appendix C. They may be recycled with EZPC Recycling, a company that will pick them up free of charge, responsibly recycle them and issue a certificate of destruction for all data contained on them.

E. Approving the purchase of 30 replacement iPads for instructors at the cost of $8,820. This is an educational discount of $30 per iPad. Quote is Appendix D.

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Motion carried 8-0

VII. New Business:

Dr. Dressler asked the status of the field we’ve been leasing.
Mr. Moritzen said we still get about $7,000 for the farmer to use.
Dr. Dressler asked the status of the Tiny House.
Mr. Moritzen said we are working on getting it into the 2 RV Shows this year, which are highly coveted spots. We’re looking to get the cost of that waived because it’s more of an educational donation for the RV Show to have us in there. Mr. Bray is working diligently on that.

Mr. Moritzen said another thing under New Business – we are looking to offer a 2 night 6 hr. HVAC EPA certification class tentatively for March; we are waiting on dates from Mr. Mest. It will be approximately be $225, which includes the testing materials. We are really trying to start catering to some adult education programs to start generating some revenue. Some baby steps in 2018-19 and looking to take some bigger grown up steps in 2019-20. Will keep you posted as to how that enrollment goes.
Ms. Heine asked if that was comparable to what other schools are doing.
Mr. Moritzen said this is the basis to getting our toe wet. We have the Emissions and Inspection certification and now we will be offering the HVAC certification. We keep growing as we go.
Ms. Custer mentioned an adult Culinary class would be awesome.

Dr. Farris said he was talking to a garage owner and he was telling him that when students graduate from here in auto mechanics they are not qualified to do inspections at that time or don't have the license to do that.
Mr. Moritzen said if they choose to take the course they can do that. It’s not an elective, it’s an add-on certification we offer at cost and not in the Program of Study. It’s a whole separate entity because that’s a state inspection certificate.

Ms. Custer asked if they are ASE certified.

Mr. Moritzen said yes and it is offered to the students, and most take advantage of it. He thinks it’s $115 to have that certification and it bumps them right up the line in job opportunities.

Ms. Heine asked when is that training done.

Mr. Moritzen said Mr. Bray typically does it in the spring, and our new auto instructor, Mr. Soleau, is also certified to be an instructor.

Ms. Heine asked if it was done during the course of the day here.

Mr. Moritzen said it is an evening course.

**VIII. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None**

**IX. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Ms. Custer to adjourn the meeting.

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Motion carried 8-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Dressler

Dr. Edward Dressler, Secretary
Kathleen M. Mullen-Lewis, Recording Secretary