Joint Committee Meeting – September 10, 2018

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 September 10, 2018. Patricia Grimm, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

JOC Members:

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Non-Members present:
Dr. David Goodin, Superintendent, Spring-Ford Area S.D. & WMCTC Superintendent of Record
Christopher Moritzen, Administrative Director
Daniel Chominski, Principal
Donna Wilson, Business Manager
Rachel Hetzel, IT Director
Joe Vecchio, CIS Instructor & AFT President
Marc Davis, Solicitor

A motion was made by Dr. Farris and seconded by Mr. Glackin to:
approve the JOC Meeting Minutes of August 13, 2018.

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Motion carried 6-3 Abstentions

II. Administrative Director’s Report

Mr. Moritzen said he had a couple of things:

- For all the board members he had a copy of a book called “Together Is Better” by Simon Sinek and an Artic mug that says “Together We Build WMCTC”. Those were some of the focus that we took on with our staff this fall when we opened up our In-Services and really taking the approach of how we move from good to great. We looked at all the things we do well and where our areas of improvement are, and he asked the staff to start with the question WHY. Why are you here, why do you do what you do, why do you show up at work every day and really build on that focus. This book, the mug and some other reminders are there to remind everyone that we’re all on the same team, on the same bus heading in the right direction. Our goal is to move from
good to great. He, Mr. Chominski and Ms. Hetzel read about 5 or 6 different books this summer and several were from Simon Sinek. We found a lot of motivation from those and something we are building upon. We also have a golden hard hat, which is going to be a reward here. One of the things we do is recognize our students for their achievements, but we don’t recognize our staff as much as we should. Each quarter and at the end of the year we are going to have the Gold Standard in Teaching Award. The hard hat will be personalized and it has the inscription for the first quarter of Building a Better WMCTC Gold Standard in Teaching Award to recognize our teachers who are doing a great job in the classroom who exemplify what it means to go from good to great and recognize our staff on a quarterly basis.

A. School Start-Up

- The start of school has been quite exciting, fast and furious with a lot of students back in the building and a lot of students out of the building. Students are working through their safety certifications. He and Mr. Chominski have been around to the classrooms getting everyone fired up.

Some upcoming events:

B.

- Boy Scout Merit Badge College on October 20 from 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., when we will be hosting all regional area scouts here. Mr. Glackin helped him to get set up with Adam Smith from Boy Scouts of America. Almost all of our teachers will be here offering 17 merit badges for the local scouts, which is a great opportunity for them.

C.

- Girls Night Out event, which is our third annual event. Registration is open and it is on our website and Facebook page. This is our non-traditional promotion night for young women to come and check out all the trades available to them here at the Western Center and get a hands-on approach to learning of what is available to them.

D.

- Open House on December 5 is our big event with all the mailings going out in late October.

E.

- On-line application window opens October 1.
- An agreement was just reached with MCCC where students can earn up to almost 25 college credits in several classes in an Associate’s Degree. They can walk in the door with 25 credits under their belt and take the other 25 and walk out the door with their Associate’s. Mrs. Landis and Mr. Chominski are working on that and Mr. Chominski is finalizing details regarding offering dual enrollment credits here as well for our students. Just trying to continue to offer more opportunities to them.
- Last week we received the donation of a fork lift, which we will be able to offer another industry certification to our students in Carpentry, HVAC, Electrical and Metal Tech. Our instructors will be getting certified to authorize those National Safety Council Certifications to our students.
- Finalizing delivery of 2 pieces of machinery for Diesel Tech from H&K. We’re supposed to be getting a tri-axel dump truck and a backhoe with a front loader on it as well.
- After the first 2 weeks enrollment fluctuates, but our total enrollment is 553 – 149 from Pottsgrove, 222 from Spring-Ford and 182 from Upper Perk.
- Tomorrow at 8:30 A.M. we will be holding our 9/11 flag raising ceremony. Advise getting here 8:00-8:15 since the parking lot is closed down after 8:15. First responders will be attending in addition to military and Protective Services parents. A light fare will be offered to them.

That concluded the Director’s Report
Mr. Glackin said he appreciates the effort on the Boy Scout Merit Badge College, which his boy scouts will be exposed to this as well. The experience is richer when scouts earn a badge from an actual practitioner in that field. It will help the Western Center since it will expose a group of kids who might not ordinarily have a touch here and get them in the building for them to see what we offer.

III. Public Comments on Agenda Items – None

IV. Presentations - None

V. Committee Reports

Superintendent of Record’s Report – Dr. Goodin – No Report

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

Principal’s Report – Mr. Dan Chominski –
- Said hello to the board members he didn’t meet last month.
- A great start to the school year. He has seen a high level of student engagement in the classroom during his walkthroughs.
- Upper Perk P.M. lunch is new this year, and the students are doing a great job in & out in 15 minutes.
- Students doing NOCTI-pre-test tomorrow & Wednesday and looking forward to that.
- SkillsUSA, one of our student organizations, met last week as well and had a phenomenal turnout. In talking with teachers who have been involved in the past said the interest is at a higher level than in the past.
- During his walkthroughs the teachers have been doing a great job with a high level of preparedness, professionalism and excitement in the classrooms. Teachers will be working though professional development throughout the first half of the school year and improve their craft as they go.
- Miss King, Health Science Technology teacher, had a phenomenal lesson. Mr. Moritzen and Ms. Hetzel had picked out all the quotes in the hallways and she had her students go around to each of the quotes and pick out their favorite ones. She did a great job of connecting that to the essential question in HST of basically mindfulness and how you need to take care of yourself before you can take care of others and posted in the classroom and decorated the windows and did a phenomenal job with that.
- A solid start to the school year and trying to meet as many students as possible and learn as many names as possible and be as visible as possible. Mr. Moritzen has been a great mentor and it’s going very well so far.

Board Secretary’s Report – Absent – No Report

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

VI. Action Agenda:

A motion was made by Mr. Lindgren and seconded by Ms. Custer to: approve A. Personnel 1. Tenure: a. Dave Batory and b. John Harris.
A. Personnel:

1. Tenure:
   a. Approving tenure for David Batory, Commercial Arts Instructor, has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as a temporary employee and is, therefore, entitled to tenure status. The Public School Code requires that a record of this accomplishment be incorporated in the Minutes of this Joint Committee. The Administration recommends that the Joint Committee officers authorize the execution and presentation of a Professional Employee Contract to David Batory.

   b. Approving tenure for John Harris, Protective Services Instructor, has completed three (3) years of satisfactory service as a temporary employee and is, therefore, entitled to tenure status. The Public School Code requires that a record of this accomplishment be incorporated in the Minutes of this Joint Committee. The Administration recommends that the Joint Committee officers authorize the execution and presentation of a Professional Employee Contract to John Harris.

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Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Mr. Glackin and seconded by Ms. Custer to:
approve A 2. Hiring Authority.

2. Hiring Authority

Authority be granted to the Superintendent of Record/Administrative Director of Western Montgomery CTC to appoint qualified personnel to vacant positions during the period of September 11, 2018 until the next regularly scheduled board meeting in November 2018.

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Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Ms. Grimm and seconded by Dr. Farris to:
approve B. Conferences/Student Competition as presented.

B. Conferences/Student Competition:

1. Approving Dan Chominski, Principal and Rachel Hetzel, IT Director to attend the PACTA New Director Academy at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, New Cumberland, PA on September 26, 2018 for an approximate cost of $100.

2. The Administration recommends approving Stephanie German, Early Childhood Instructor, to attend the Early Childhood Education Summit at Penn State, PA on October 14-17, 2018 for an approximate cost of $1,500.00.
3. The Administration recommends approving Patricia King, Health Sciences Technology Instructor, to attend the Nurse Aide Update – Educational Excellence for Health Care Providers & Educators at Penn State, PA on November 1 & 2, 2018 for an approximate cost of $950.00.

4. The Administration recommends approving a maximum of 27 students and three staff to attend the SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference being held November 14-16, 2018 at Pocono Manor, PA. WMCTC will be responsible for approximately $3,500 or less, based upon actual number of students attending, to help offset cost in addition to fundraising.

5. Approving administration and instructors from the following programs: Auto Technology, Electrical, Health Sciences, HVAC and Protective Services to attend the Program of Study Test Alignment Workshop on October 26 and Cosmetology to attend the Task List Revision Meetings held on October 24 & 25, 2018 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Center in State College, PA at no cost to WMCTC as PDE will cover all costs including cost of substitutes.

6. Approving Donald Bray, Howie Nonnemacher, Chris Moritzen, Chuck Smith, and up to six (6) students who meet the established criteria to attend the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Conference at the Las Vegas Convention Center from Nov. 5-8, 2019 with no cost to WMCTC due to industry donations & fundraising.

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Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Ms. Grimm and seconded by Ms. Custer to:
approve C. Finance 1 & 2 as presented.

C. Finance:

Cash Receipts and List of Bills:

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

2. The Administration recommends approving to pay the List of Bills until the next regularly scheduled board meeting in November 2018.

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Motion carried 7-0

A motion was made by Dr. Farris and seconded by Ms. Custer to:
approve D. Policies Second Reading of:

Sections 600, 700, 800 and 900 in Policy Manual (The following policies are still under review and will not be approved within the appropriate sections: 616, 618, 619, 620, 622, 624, 626, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 716, 808, 815, 823, 908).
Changes have been made to Policies 609, 610, 611, 703, 717, 801, 814, 903, 904, 907.
Ashley Custer  Yes  Colleen Zasowski  Yes  James C. Giackin  Yes  
Patricia Grimm  Yes  Edward Dressler  Absent  Stephen Cunningham  Yes Via conf. call  
Robert Lindgren  Yes  Dawn R. Heine  Absent  John Farris  Yes  

Motion carried 7-0

VII. New Business:

PSBA Officer Election

After a discussion of the officer elections, it was decided that Ms. Grimm would file the necessary papers to abstain this year from voting to elect officers.

Mr. Moritzen said they released an announcement for 2 School Safety Grants – 1 for $25,000 & 1 for $50,000 and we are going to attempt to apply for those and add onto our security cameras and secure electronic locks for doors to enhance what we have already.

Mr. Lindgren asked Dr. Goodin, as part of the School Safety Act 44, Pottsgrove S.D. appointed somebody to be their school safety coordinator and wondered if that applied to WMCTC as well. Mr. Moritzen said he gave Mr. Chominski that title and will be our security.

Ms. Grimm said one thing she wanted to bring up; we brought up in conversation before about the Superintendent of Record, and we did some research and looked at it, and basically it does not have to rotate; it’s up to the board’s decision.

Mr. Davis said the only thing you have to be cognizant of the fact is that the Chair and the Superintendent of Record can’t be from the same district. You have to balance that, but there is no required rotation. In theory you could have the same Superintendent of Record for 50 years.

Ms. Grimm said she has always been told it was every 2 years.

Mr. Davis said it’s been a culture certainly.

Ms. Grimm said one of her biggest concerns is that she sees a rhythm and pattern and the train is running smooth and she would like to keep it that way. She likes what we have in place not just for her position but she feels Dr. Goodin does a great job for us here and the chemistry works here. She asked if there were any thoughts on that and knows we are missing Ms. Heine and Dr. Dressler.

Ms. Custer said she is fine with keeping it the way it is and following whatever the rules are, but just because that’s the way it’s always been done doesn’t mean that’s the way it has to be done. She agrees that things are running along pretty smoothly here.

Dr. Farris asked when did things change here because when he was on the board here before the other 2 Superintendents were at almost all of the meetings, if not all, and asked when did it change that.

Dr. Goodin said we changed that probably 5 or 6 years ago.

Mr. Moritzen said we have a monthly Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting and typically meet the week before a board meeting and he talks to Dr. Goodin when needed or when he calls. Everything he brings to Dr. Goodin is more of just a question or an FYI this is what’s going on or what we’re doing. Dr. Goodin has provided guidance when needed, but we run as an entity here is pretty much self-contained.
Ms. Zasowski said we passed that piece last year where the Superintendent now goes to July.
Mr. Moritzen said January.

Ms. Zasowski said so we're talking as of January and with smooth sailing if we're not required
to rock the boat.

Ms. Grimm said and we're not going to be here until November and you know how crazy things
get. She asked if Mr. Lindgren had any comments.

Mr. Lindgren said in the interest in keeping things running smoothly, he's enjoying working with
Dr. Goodin and is involved in everything and work well as a team like Ms. Grimm said. He was
wondering what effect this decision would have on the other 2 Superintendents and their
cooperation with you and the advisory council.

Dr. Goodin said he thinks that for those especially those closer to retirement may have a little
bit of an issue with it simply because of the $8,000 stipend.

Mr. Lindgren said there's the missing piece.

Dr. Goodin said he thinks that's going to be the rub.

Ms. Grimm thought it was $2,000 not $8,000.

Ms. Custer said but that shouldn't be the reason they want the position.

Mr. Cunningham said his personal feeling is it would be hard for him to say to the board would
have to choose a Superintendent. He didn't want it to sound like he's going to bat for his
district, but at the same time, just in fairness, it seems like it could always be a one sided battle
against the school. If Pottsgrove wants their Superintendent to definitely be in that position,
but board members from other districts don't want that person to be in that role, then it seems
like a pretty easy choice. Rotation keeps it fair, but the other thing is he understands, but he
doesn't know who said it, that you like the train rolling in the position it's going. He
understands that completely, but he just doesn't want to set precedent.

Ms. Grimm appreciates that, and does understand how he's feeling, but she feels the JOC is not
that political. We're all sitting here in the best interest of our kids, students and staff and our
administration. She's been here for not sure how many years, and has seen such a complete
turnaround in the last 5 years. She sees all the positives and how the chemistry is working. It's
just a conversation.

Mr. Glackin said he seconds with what Mr. Cunningham is saying. He too likes the direction
things are going and how easy it is to work and understands there's some concern. Because of
the fact there are 3 people in this room who are effectively going to have to potentially go back
and tell their Superintendent, sorry, you know how you were next and now you're not, it would
be difficult for him to support that motion through the lens of maintaining a relationship
between the school board and my Superintendent. It's kind of on a knife's edge. He
understands both sides and hopes that if that does get to a vote that people would understand.

Ms. Grimm said the first thing we would have to do is clarify that it is not in any of the
amendments or anything that we do rotate every two years and it's just something that just
happens. She appreciates everybody's thoughts, and we'll see how Ms. Heine and Dr. Dressler
feel, and move from there before you know what's going to happen. She likes the time together
to start the conversation so you can think about it, and if you change your mind or if you have
other questions. It's not like right now you have to do this, but something we're looking
forward to do.
Dr. Farris said if you’re going in that direction, I would appreciate and think that we should somehow encourage the other two Superintendents to be at all of our meetings or as many as possible and have their input too. I’m not sure I’m in favor of 1 Superintendent staying in the position. We worked with it before and it worked very well. I don’t know if anybody else was in here when they did that.

Ms. Grimm asked if they changed it every year.

Dr. Farris said every two years, but all the Superintendents were at most of the meetings.

Ms. Grimm said when she first started they were always here.

Dr. Farris said they have a lot of meetings and everything else, but they have an obligation to be here to listen to these conversations.

Dr. Goodin said he would agree with Dr. Ferris except for the fact that we do meet and go through all this stuff prior to and secondly, the reason this came about was because the argument was if the Superintendent of Record is receiving a stipend and part of that stipend means they come here. If you were suddenly to require all the Superintendents to be in attendance, that was the reason that it stopped. The argument was he receives the stipends, and he represents all 3 Superintendents at the board meeting and then we meet prior to the board meetings.

Dr. Farris said if you’re going to do that say once you hold that position if you’re going to get the stipend you have to attend most of the meetings as part of their job of getting to that stipend point.

Mr. Glackin said one of the things Dr. McGloin has said, and he’s a new guy, so I don’t know all the years, numbers and dates and whatnot. She made a comment one time that it’s been x number of years and then referred to Mr. Davis.

Dr. Goodin said Tim Kirby was the last one.

Mr. Davis said the rotation has been going on since he got here in the 1970’s

Dr. Goodin said it wasn’t Tim Kirby, it was...the recording secretary said Elizabeth Yonson.

Mr. Glackin said to use her words she would say Upper Perk hasn’t had a leadership voice at the Western Center in a long time for whatever that’s worth.

Dr. Goodin said he disagrees with that statement and he would tell her that I disagree with that - she has a voice and that’s not advocating for me. I have no skin in this game here – this is your conversation, your decision, but she does have a say in what happens out here. We do meet and she lets her position be known.

Ms. Grimm said there was talk a couple years ago, which hasn’t happened, but maybe we should look at the stipend – that was another issue that did come up at one point

Dr. Goodin said this is true, but you don’t want to change it...

Mr. Lindgren said any change you make, any change you make is going to be greeted with opposition by somebody, or a couple somebody’s. He’s lucky enough to work in private business and that means when I hire somebody and they work out well and they’re a good fit, I keep them. If I hire somebody, who doesn’t fit and isn’t part of the team and doesn’t want to be part of the team, I don’t have to keep them. It’s sometimes hard to, for me to say, well it’s
your turn so you get to be there even if you may not have as much enthusiasm as another candidate. Sometimes it’s a hard argument for me to make when I switch from my private business hat to my director hat. It’s a very real thing in this environment that has to be considered, but it’s very hard for me.

Dr. Goodin said if the JOC is so inclined, wait until November and have an Executive Session and hash it out when he’s not here. This is truly your decision, not mine, I’ve had my 2 years.

Ms. Grimm said I’m just trying to be transparent with everything so everybody understands. Maybe you could shed a little light on what the responsibility is.

Dr. Goodin said the main thing is to attend the meetings and secondly, to be on call if there’s issues out here. That’s really the biggest thing that if Mr. Moritzen calls me and says I want to let you know about this and this is what’s going on, what do you think. That’s probably the biggest task I have other than doing his evaluation. To be a resource if we have an employee issue sometimes I might get involved in that. He certainly knows about them all, but I don’t get involved in all of them. Mr. Moritzen keeps me pretty well informed in what’s going on and bounces things off of me. Quite frankly, I don’t tell him how to run his program. I trust what he does and that’s what I do.

Ms. Grimm said he does a fine job for us here. She opened it up, we’ll think about it and bring it back in November. Ms. Heine had some comments she texted me, but she’s not here. Moving on.

VIII. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Cunningham and seconded by Dr. Farris to adjourn the meeting.

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Motion carried 7-0

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

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Dressler

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