



Des Plaines Valley Region

Partners in Education, Employment & Life-Long Learning

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DES PLAINES VALLEY REGION (DVR) ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MARCH 5, 2010

MINUTES

Dr. Anne Cothran called the meeting of the Des Plaines Valley Region Administrative Council to order at 8:02 a.m. on Friday, March 5, 2010 in Room 230 at West 40, Bellwood, IL. In attendance: Dr. Jack Denny (Leyden Dist. 212), Dr. Fran Brady (Leyden Dist. 212), Ms. Toni Wurch (Elmwood Park Dist. 401), Ms. Tracy Jopa (Ridgewood Dist. 234), Ms. Patty Sarkady (Riverside-Brookfield Dist. 208), Ms. Antoinette Baldin (Triton), Dr. Susan Collins (Triton), Dr. Anne Cothran (DVR), and Ms. Denise Yaneck (DVR).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Denny moved, Ms. Baldin seconded the motion to approve minutes of the February 4, 2010 meeting. All ayes; motion carried.

SCHOOL/COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Council discussed potential topics for the October 2010 workshop. The following comments/suggestions were noted.

In the last meeting AC members expressed that high Standards in CTE courses is a priority. There is a need to see the importance of CTE. There is a need to bring reading and writing into the curriculum.

There is a need to see CTE students as mainstream students.

Communication is needed to inform parents and students of the importance of CTE.

How can we better prepare students in CTE for college?

We need to prepare students for various opportunities beyond high school, not just college.

We need content rich applications of reading and math.

Panel discussions, comprised of business representatives as well as students, have been well received at past workshops. Schools would benefit by teachers outside of CTE hearing these panel discussions. Other guests should be invited, such as elementary district representatives.

Ms. Sarkady expressed interest in Marzano, as she just completed a Marzano full day workshop on Formative Assessments which she felt was excellent and would be good for DVR.

Ms. Sarkady stated that she will provide Council members with information about a technology literacy test that might be administered to eighth graders.

After further discussion, the Council agreed that the workshop's focus should be standards across the curriculum and how increased expectations on CTE are delivered.

Dr. Cothran reported that, based on the Council's prior expression of interest in a standards based focus, she looked into possible keynote speakers to address standards, such as Dr. Marzano and Dr. Daggett. Fees for these two particular speakers are high, therefore she will investigate potential speakers from their organizations who can address the same topic of standards based assessment but at a lower fee.

Further recommendations from the Council included the suggestion of a one day workshop since it is difficult for faculty to be out of their schools for two full days. To facilitate building relationships among Partnership members, a suggestion was made to structure the agenda to include dinner as part of the program and not an optional activity. It was recommended that Triton host the event as opposed to West 40. Dr. Cothran reported that, with the Board's concern about the budget, she had looked into various facilities and the Board voted on West 40. She noted that the Board had reservations about Triton's space and felt it was not conducive to the workshop's purpose. A comment was made that the workshop must be a quality event; people will compare the quality to other events they have attended, and that the venue is part of that comparison. Council members indicated that travel is not an issue for them. Dr. Cothran stated that she can take this discussion to the Board.

GRANTS UPDATE

Council members received information on how to contact their legislators regarding support for CTE, based on the recommendation from ACTE. At this time, the PCCS grant may be redlined. Ms. Wurch raised the question as to whether schools should proceed with planning for PCCS funds in FY2011, or if the activities that would have been supported by PCCS be moved into the other grants. ACTE's recommendation is to request that the PCCS money to be reallocated to Perkins.

CAREER INTEREST SURVEY RESULTS

Council members received compiled results for the Learning for Life career survey taken by students from DVR's schools. All schools except Proviso West participated in this survey.

CAREER PLANNING BROCHURE

Dr. Cothran relayed a comment from Oak Park & River Forest representative Amy Hill regarding whether the current format of the career planning brochure is most useful or if there is need to move to a different format. Discussion included the following.

To parents, the brochure is "overwhelming."

The information should be on posters should be in the classroom and in counseling offices in order to be more visible, and there can be a link to the information on the schools' web sites.

For some districts there is uncertainty as to where the brochures end up or how they are received.

Triton has produced videos in which instructors provide information.

Ms. Sarkady stated that Riverside-Brookfield has its own information for eighth graders, so having the career brochure online is sufficient. She added that career information is displayed in posters on foam boards in the classrooms, and she will bring a sample to the next meeting.

The Council discussed posters with accompanying one-page informational handouts, and online links which could include national information such as job statistics for our region and college costs. Consensus is to utilize posters, focusing on career clusters and the world of work approach, plus companion literature and links to online information. What information is provided online will need to be determined.

Council members are to view videos, such as through YouTube, to develop ideas. For the next meeting, Dr. Brady will provide the link for Leyden's video clips.

CAREER CAMP COORDINATOR

Dr. Cothran reported that this year's budget will be amended in order to support career camps. Tom Verduyck of TRV Enterprises will do videos and pictures to promote the camps. Camp instructors will be asked for input on the best time for Mr. Verduyck to obtain footage at each camp. Having a specific schedule for picture taking and videotaping will maximize his time. By utilizing a web site that was suggested by Ms. Hill, student registrations will be done online. This web site also will be used to communicate with applicants via e-mail. Two separate portals will be developed for students (for career camps) and teachers to register. Online options will be explored to provide a way for business partners to sign up with our region. An updated draft copy of the Career Camp brochure was

distributed. The Council wants guidance counselors to be contact persons at the high schools. Final brochures for the summer 2010 camps will be ready for April 1st, and registration can begin at that time.

The Career Camp Coordinator's job description was distributed. Dr. Cothran stated that, if the Board approves the position, applicants from DVR schools will be sought. Dr. Denny stated that it must be clear to the coordinator that duties associated with setting up the camps are not to be done during school time. Ms. Baldin recommended providing a small stipend for a Triton employee to assist with logistics and arrangements at Triton. She will develop a job description for the Triton representative. DVR and Triton are sharing career camp costs. Council members commented that marketing will be crucial. Posters and online information should be available as well as hard copies. Pertinent details, such as dress code, can be communicated via e-mail to students who are accepted. We must be clear about what grade levels can participate. Dr. Cothran will investigate the issue of grade level (i.e. students are considered 12th graders through June 30th, and incoming freshmen are considered 9th graders as of July 1st).

Ms. Baldin requested that Council members send her ideas for summer 2011 camps. Possibilities could include Forensics, Culinary, CEMA, Law Enforcement, Mock Trial, and Horticulture.

PROGRAMS OF STUDY SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

Those who attended the February 18th event were asked to identify the most valuable piece of information gained or to identify one topic that DVR could build upon. Ms. Wurch stated that Bridges (now renamed "What's Next Illinois") has valuable use in her classes. The panel discussion was a positive experience, and an idea to follow up on is that schools should have an industry representative cross-reference projects so that students are working on real life projects. Attendees liked the thumb drives they received that were preloaded with all of the handouts. A comment was made that students need to understand the reasonable route to a career; schools need to provide the right information and more direction.

Additionally, areas for improvement were noted, including the fact that for the substitute opening speaker, "Programs of Study" was not clearly explained, but instead it created more confusion. Comments concerned the fact that the keynote address did not adhere to the time schedule; having a speaker during lunch is not a good idea in that he/she is competing for the attendees' attention; many people left after lunch and did not participate in the afternoon work groups; the facility experienced technical difficulties; and the lengthy DACUM session seemed to be focused on selling the process.

OTHER

Dr. Brady reported that the Women in Non-traditional Careers Conference was very well organized and students enjoyed the event.

The meeting was adjourned with an invitation that people who wanted to discuss other additional, non-agenda issues were welcome to stay, but those who were under time constraints to leave should feel free to do so.