

DVR Business Committee / IT Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2019

West Leyden High School, Room 105

12:45 – 2:30 pm

I. Introductions

Stephanie Sneath (Ridgewood), Neil Posmer (Elmwood Park), John Cloud (Leyden), Tony Pecucci (Leyden), Patty Sarkady (RB)

II. School College Alliance Workshop Post Discussion

Members who attended the conference said it was beneficial to their professional development. Information most cited included:

- *Balance/difference between apprenticeships and internships*
- *The premise of guiding our students pathways for six years post graduation (not just one year)*
- *Discussion and support for career endorsements on high school transcript*
- *Discussion of Incubator breakout session and Accelerator program*

III. [Review of Leyden Tech Advisory Board Meeting/Discussion from IT Professionals](#)

Members reviewed the latest presentation from the Leyden Tech Advisory Meeting on October 11 @ East Leyden. Discussion was had regarding the IT teachers making an effort to form their own outside advisory teams. Support for this idea includes ensuring IT curriculum stays relevant and students are learning the most relevant skills. Leyden discussed inserting CyberSecurity into their curriculum, as well as Ridgewood looking to do the same. Members reviewed some of the information and research that drove the meeting and conversations.

IV. [Dual Credit Possibilities at Triton](#)

Members reviewed the document provided and discussed their own current dual credit opportunities. Leyden discussed how some of their IT Certifications (A+, Net +, etc.) garner students dual credit at Triton. Elmwood Park and Ridgewood discussed their Accounting and Dual Credit opportunities - as well as Computer Science and Mobile Makers.

Members discussed some of the difficulties in finding instructors who qualify at the high school level to offer dual credit opportunities. One idea discussed was to possibly institute a DVR Cohort for Computer Science teachers so they could attain what is needed to be certified to teach dual credit.

All members would like to see more opportunities to move potential CS students further along in the CS curriculum when they arrive at Triton. Further discussion with Triton CS will occur in the Fall and Spring.

V. [CTE Fall Newsletter](#)

Members reviewed the CTE Fall Newsletter and will distribute it to their peers in their respective departments. Instructions will be given to review the video from Diane Mahinda to view professional development opportunities.

VI. [IBEA Conference \(11/6 - 11/8\)](#)

Patty and Tony will be attending the IBEA Conference this November. Both have attended the conference in the past and have found it beneficial. Members then discussed other professional development opportunities such as ICE (now IDEA) and Connections. CABEA was also discussed as an option as that conference is usually held in the Spring. All members discussed the importance of professional development and goals for each of their department members each year.

VII. [2019 Illinois Curriculum Questionnaire: Career and Technical Education](#)

This questionnaire was shared among the members and was asked to be shared among their respective departments.

VIII. Summarize/Read [CompTIA Industry Outlook 2019](#)

Members brought up this report and spent some time summarizing some of the newest trends in Information Technology. Some of the discussions included:

- *The emergence of ambient computing*
- *How major companies (Apple, Google) have taken away the 4-year college degree as a requirement to work in their IT departments*
- *Cybersecurity stays constant as a need in the marketplace*
- *Emerging jobs and opportunities in AI and Data Analytics*

Members discussed the evolving marketplace and need to keep curriculum relevant for students. The struggle to find professional development in emerging areas (AI, Data, etc.) for teachers is difficult.

IX. Discussion of Current Efforts/Future in Each Department

- *Patty stated she is currently looking at different offerings to teach digital gaming. Unity has been introduced recently.*
- *HTML coding and CSS are still being taught at most of the represented schools.*
- *Cybersecurity will start to take flight at both Leyden and Ridgewood in pilot mode this year and start in full at Leyden next year. Discussion was had on using the PLTW curriculum for Cybersecurity.*
- *Recruiting strategies were discussed, especially in efforts to attract more females to computer science classes. Ridgewood has done a great job in moving more females into courses and shared some tactics that were successful.*
- *Leyden discussed a Spring effort to attract more incoming Freshman females called Code Crush (an idea started at University of Nebraska). Stephanie brought up the Huntley effort which is similar and focuses on girls in engineering, math and science.*
- *There was a discussion of bringing Hour of Code to the feeder schools in an effort to get students excited about IT. Many of the member schools are considering this idea for December Hour of Code Day.*

X. Other

XI. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.