

## PCTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Meeting notes

4/15/2010

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Present: Matthew Bodah, Andrew Cortés, Andy Cutler, Bob Delaney, Ron Palmieri, Rocco Rainone, Bob Ricci, Deborah Rosen, Ron Stevenson, Paul Vorro, Peter Woodberry, Judy Titzel (staff).

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#### 1. Welcome – Introduction of new member, Bob Delaney

As Bill Bryan was unable to attend today, he asked Andrew to serve as Chair in his place. Andrew opened the meeting and introduced Gail Degan to the group, a new Building Futures' staff member that will support the work of the Committee. After a quick round of introductions, Andrew welcomed Bob Delaney from the Institute for Labor Studies & Research (ILSR) as a new member of the Advisory Committee, and asked if Bob would discuss some potential synergies with his organizations' work.

Bob gave an overview of the ILSR "Pathways to Apprenticeship" program and the overall objectives:

- It is a 35-hour bridge program into apprenticeship. Helping high school students become prepared for apprenticeship entry tests, especially in math.
- The program is offered at the New England Laborers Construction Charter School.
- This program provides job match profiles for high school students, as well as job assessments for both middle and high school levels.
- The Institute also offers ESOL and GED programs at hospitals.
- Local 51 offers college courses at CCRI and the National Labor College with both face to face and online courses with a facilitator
- The program is measured on a continuum basis from GED to College. Currently 87 students enrolled in college courses, expected over 100 by next year.

#### 2. Report from Post Secondary Working Group

##### a) Pre-engineering program

Rocco stated that Diane Nobles from "Project Lead The Way" Pre-engineering Program, expressed an interest in exploring a program in pre-engineering at PCTA during the last meeting with Matt, Peter, Ron and Katherine Rickert. He distributed the flyer giving an overview of the program. It has been well researched, is supported by the State and aligns well with CCRI classes. There is a Carl Perkins grant available for planning new career tracks. Rocco will look into applying.

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There was a suggestion to invite Diane Nobles to one of our meetings to give an overview of programs she is involved in. She has produced a paper and pencil tool kit to help high schools build curriculum. She is funded by Carl Perkins and is located in Peter's office.

Peter stated that Gateway to Technology is a middle schools pre-engineering program. Rocco replied that the middle schools had this program, but closed it down. Peter stated that this should be re-explored and talked about transitioning the middle school program into the high school level. Peter went on to talk about other ways that post secondary institutions are working with public schools.

Peter also announced that the Economic Development Corporation - CCRI 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Report was recently published. It was suggested this be reviewed over the summer again bringing groups together with support from legislative members and backup from governor. The report may be found at the following link:

[http://www.riedc.com/files/EDC\\_CCRI%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.riedc.com/files/EDC_CCRI%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

#### b) Mentoring programs

Rocco stated that as far as mentoring is concerned there are two elements that need to be monitored.

- Mentors tend to fade away. It's difficult to maintain and coordinate programs
- Academic preparation. The programs fit nicely, but the students don't have the academic skills to participate. There is a need to form a foundation – develop summer and afterschool programs to help increase and reinforce academics especially in Math.

We need to reach out for guidance on mentoring (Bob & Paul); perhaps take a look at the state of Michigan's programs for insight. A seamless program seems to be starting at grade 10 moving from academic to apprenticeship.

Deb explained the GAP Mentoring Program with the Providence Schools. This program provides high school students with college aged mentors in engineering to give them a sense of opportunity moving on from high school. As there are many different mentoring programs in science and engineering, Deb suggested a meeting of all interested parties from the different organizations, initiatives, etc., to discuss overlap and gaps (tutoring, career guidance and also industry personnel) to make the programs seamless and develop synergies.

Andrew asked for members to develop a list of programs that should be in the room moving forward to decrease overlap, convene group to see where synergies lie, and align projects between higher education and schools.

(Beginning list of organizations contributed by Deborah and Peter)

- **GAP**
- **ACE Mentoring Program**
- **rites** – RI Technology Enhanced Science Program. NSF funded program to increase quality of science teaching. Colleges involved are URI, CCRI, RISD, RIC, Roger Williams
- **EPSCORE** – Research expansion program. Preparing teachers to teach biotechnology
- **K-16 Committee (High School Partnership)** – Align expectations from K through 16 especially in areas of math and reading
- **Running Start** – Student takes courses at CCRI while in high school. Offered to any eligible student over the age of 14.
- **SMILE** – (Science & Math Investigative Learning Experiences) Housed at URI. An after school enrichment program in STEM for middle and high school students.

Judy summarized the topics on the table and offered to compile the list for the committee's review.

- Mentoring Programs
- Summer Programs
- After School Enrichment Programs
- Post secondary project to help improve teacher ability in math/science instruction

### 3. Program Advisories

#### **Roles/Responsibilities Draft**

Staff will draft a roles/responsibilities document including composition (based on new state CTE regulations) and relationship to the General Advisory Committee; potentially add to the Advisory Committee Guide as an appendix.

#### **Process for setting up**

General consensus was that the Advisory Committee offers guidance, meets with Tech teachers after roles/responsibilities document is drafted.

Ramon will work with teachers regarding program advisories.

#### 4. Review of Guide (process for)

##### Advisory Committees Guide

Andrew provided a draft copy of the Advisory Committee Guide. Bill Bryan (Chair) feels that formal bylaws should be adopted to provide a guiding structure for the work of the Committee and set the high expectations for our efforts. Andrew suggested that the objectives of bylaws could be incorporated directly into the Guide as an appendix, in lieu of creating an additional set of documents. Once we have chairs of program advisories represented, a decision around a separate set of bylaws could be revisited.

Rocco suggested we use the Guide as a “talk about” at a ½ day retreat. Some questions he raised are: How to add value to the group? How to act? What we need to do? Judy stated that a summer retreat is in the Nellie Mae budget.

Andrew thinks it’s important to have written rules to refer to outlining the structure of meetings and decision making. He also stated the Guide was very close to being finalized, just need to review – membership description, roles of program advisories, roles and procedures.

##### Making Advisory Committee Transparent

Do we publically post agenda to engage, inform, and provide reference material?

A link can be added to the school website; Andrew offered to host the website through Building Futures, which will allow it to be updated daily.

#### New News

PCTA Robotics Group is competing in the Honors Robotics Competition in Atlanta. The total cost of the trip is \$7500 of which \$4000 has already been raised. Andy Cutler reached out to the committee to network for donations. The checks are payable to PCTA, 14 Fricker St., Providence, RI 02903 Attention Kathy Rickert. The timeframe for donations would be in the next two weeks. A conversation ensued on exploring future funding for these types of school fieldtrips. Some ideas offered were:

- Bob Delaney offered having LaborVision film the Robotics group in action as fundraising venue.
- Contacting Jim Grace at “Insure My Trip” in Warwick and giving him a tour of the school as a prelude to a donation request.
- Fund raise through a 501(c)3 non-profit to avoid bureaucratic issues

Paul announced there will be 15 new teaching positions posted tomorrow on the district’s web site.

## Next Steps – Wrap Up

- All members: send contact information for other science and technology programs focused on high school students that may overlap with our work
- Staff: Compile list of various programs, convene groups for synergies, look into Best Practices nationally.
- Staff: create 1-2 page draft of roles/responsibilities for Program Advisories; once finalized arrange meeting between General Advisory Committee and Tech teachers
- Building Futures: PCTA website to have link to Advisory Committee information through Building Futures web site
- Create fund for travel to be utilized for student field trips (e.g. robotics competition) for further discussion
- Next PCTA General Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at PCTA from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING May 20, 2010 – 8:30 a.m. at PCTA**