



Education Advisory Group

Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties

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Meeting Notes

September 19, 2003

Call to Order

Co-Chairperson Roger Lentini called the Education Advisory Group (EAG) meeting to order, beginning with introductions, at 8:35 a.m. at the St. Joseph County Intermediate School District, Centreville, Michigan.

Members Present: Tom Conor, John Dillworth, Kevin Hollenbeck, Roger Lentini, Craig Misner, Jay Newman, Barb Niblock, Glenn Oxender, Claudia Pahls, Casey Putnam, Richard Roder (for Marilyn Schlack), Bernie Stankewicz, Doug Wood, and Tom Topham.

Guest: Debra Miller.

Staff Present: Craig Schreuder and Rhoda Miller

Required for Quorum: 11 **Attendance:** 14 **Quorum Achieved:** Yes

1. Approval of EAG Minutes

A motion was made by Craig Misner to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2003 meeting of the Education Advisory Group. Kevin Hollenbeck supported the motion. The motion carried. [Doug Wood made a correction on Legislative Update]

2. Review of Career Initiatives Plan End of Year Report for 2002-2003

Craig offered a PowerPoint presentation of the Career Initiatives Plan End of Year Report for 2002-2003. The report covered a number of key elements:

- Goals achieved
- Highlights of the last year.
- Areas of shortcomings, and
- Changes for the next year

Craig indicated that the report attests to the commitment and contributions of many administrative, counseling, instructional, and supporting staff in all of the districts. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the official Meeting Notes)

A question was raised about whether the student portfolios include just student materials or whether the process is one where the information may be evaluated for input into future choices. Craig indicated that the student portfolios contain examples of activities and accomplishments of what they have been involved in. Staff provides assistance to developing the portfolios. The information in the portfolios is also used to compliment the student Education Development Plan (EDP).

Claudia Pahls indicated that EDPs are established using a standardized process including career awareness, workshops, etc. At regular intervals progress and future planning are included in the EDP. At regular intervals, both the student and the parent sign the EDP.

One area of constant attention in the CTE and Tech Prep areas is ensuring that students are taught about "all aspects of the industry" of their chosen career pathway. Casey Putnam indicated that this instruction includes providing the students with an awareness of all components of a business regardless of what their specific occupational choice may be. This would include: bargaining unit agreements, human resources, research and development, logistics, training, finance and budgeting, etc.

John Dillworth commented on the need of businesses to come to the table and participate in the education process and develop training opportunities in their business. Craig indicated that education and business partnerships are one of the key aspects of the Career Preparation System.

3. Legislative Update

Craig indicated that the funding for the CTE and Tech Prep program has been reduced from the level included in the initial plans submitted in June. Career and Technical Education was reduced by \$ 29,248 (5.1%) to \$544,872 and Tech Prep by \$3,135 (2.4%) to \$125,316. Craig indicated that we wouldn't see any new funds for Career Prep for 2003-2004. Therefore, alternative methods will be required to maintain the Career Preparation initiative in the school districts.

Doug Wood indicated that reductions in Adult Education funding would impact their GED Testing Center. A significant impact may be seen in a reduction of the number of hours GED testing would be available. Craig indicated that the GED testing process will require local financial support if the need of businesses for workers with high school diplomas or GEDs remain at the same level of priority as in the past.

Glenn Oxender commented about discussions targeting Community Colleges as the primary recipient of Adult Education funding. This is a hot political issue. While some community colleges advocate for this change, Glen Oaks is not in favor of moving into the adult education business. Glen Oaks is not set in population center for this service. Further, there are existing systems in the community that are doing the job.

Doug indicated that the choices that are being placed on the local adult education systems are forcing them to make choices on who will, and will not, be served.

4. Staff Reports

Craig announced Bernie has been appointed to the Workforce Development Board to represent education.

5. Member and Guest Time

Kevin Hollenbeck reported that, through a contract with the Michigan Department of Career Development, he is in the final stages of the Career Preparation System Assessment. Every 12th grader was surveyed to ascertain their perceptions of how career preparation affected them. In addition, a significant sampling of 10th grade EDPs was completed.

This assessment process provided a significant amount of data that meet the validity check as was discussed earlier. While the data from this assessment will be used to establish benchmarks for future reviews, it has already shown that considerable progress has been made in the implementation of systemic changes that incorporate career preparation in the educational process. Kevin said that he would be meeting with the state to use the data to promote the career preparation system.

On another issue, Kevin indicated that he had been participating on an advisory body that was reviewing the workforce development system. This would include integrating workforce development and economic development systems. Kevin indicated that the report would be forwarded to Mr. David Hollister, Director of the Department of Workforce and Economic Development.

There was some discussion on the status of the review of the Oakland County ISD. Much has been reported in the *Detroit Free Press* about some irregularities ISD spending. Some legislators are quite upset and are calling for an overhaul of the ISD system. There is some concern about this strategy because without the ISDs the local districts would be footing more expenses and smaller districts would loose representation.

10. Adjournment: Roger Lentini adjourned the meeting at 10:20.

Craig Schreuder
MWA Deputy Director, EAG Staff

Date

Roger Lentini
Chair, EAG

Date