Carbon Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee Minutes

Regular Meeting September 21, 2023

The Carbon Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee met **Thursday – September 21, 2023** for its Regular meeting. The meeting, held in the dining room of the School, 150 West 13th Street, Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, was called to order by the Chairman, Mrs. Renee DeMelfi, at 6:41 PM with the Secretary being present.

	Present	Absent
Mr. Gerald Strubinger, Member	\boxtimes	
Mr. Nathan Foeller, Member	\boxtimes	
Mr. Earl Paules, Vice-Chairman	\boxtimes	
Mrs. Renee DeMelfi, Chairman	\boxtimes	
Mr. Thomas Connors, Member		\boxtimes
Mr. David Reinbold, Interim Administrative Director	\boxtimes	
Mrs. Michelle Allen, Principal	\boxtimes	
Mrs. Christine Trovato, Facilitator of Special Education	\boxtimes	
Mr. Jeffry Deutsch, Bus. Administrator/Treasurer		
Mr. Nate Rinda, Director of Technology	\boxtimes	
Mr. Ken Walters, Supervisor of Bldg. & Grounds	\boxtimes	
Mrs. Francine Kluck, Adult Education Site Supervisor		\boxtimes
Mr. Rich Flacco, Alternate Member		\boxtimes
Mr. Jeremy Glaush, Alternate Member		\boxtimes
Mrs. Stacey Connell, Alternate Member		\boxtimes
Mr. Steven Foster, Alternate Member		\boxtimes
Ms. Chrissie Houser, Alternate Member	\boxtimes	
Mr. Robert Presley, Superintendent of Record		\boxtimes
Attorney Robert T. Yurchak, Solicitor	\boxtimes	
Mrs. Christina A. Graver, Secretary	\boxtimes	

Others present: Members of the Public: Pat Leonzi, Panther Valley SD Board Member, Chris

Roberto; CCTI Staff: Anna Leigh Conway, Science Teacher/CCTI EA President,

Henry Woods, School Police Officer

The Committee met in Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel, litigation, and negotiation items.

Approval of Addendum

A. MOTION by Mr. Foeller, SECONDED by Mr. Paules to approve the inclusion of an Addendum to the September 21, 2023 Joint Operating Committee meeting agenda. Individual Addendum motions have been presented to and will be voted on by the Joint Operating Committee members in attendance, integrated among the agenda motions presented below.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

A. MOTION by Ms. Houser, SECONDED by Mr. Paules to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2023 Regular Meeting.

Motion carried.

Courtesy of the Floor to Visitors

- Anna Leigh Conway, CCTI Education Association President
 - She thanked Mr. Reinbold for his commitment to open and productive conversations with both the association leadership as well as his individual conversations with each professional staff member.
 - As both a taxpayer and the president of the teacher's association she spoke as follows: I have stood in front of you many times before with both successes and concerns. During the July JOC meeting, I asked, " ... the board to do their due diligence in finding and hiring a replacement (for director at CCTI). Many of our sending schools have done superintendent searches, intensive interviews, and vetting with whom they were going to hire. Again, I am asking you to take your time and find a good fit. We have great students and staff, and we need someone who cares as deeply as we do about CCTI and the community we serve."
 - She then asked the following questions: Where are you in the stages of selecting an administrative director? Is there a plan in place to make a selection? Are there applicants? How is that search going?
 - A conversation then followed by Mr. Paules per her request, explaining the procedure used by the Palmerton Area School District for their Superintendent search. He explained that it was a long process and that it takes a lot of time if you want to do it right.
 - Mr. Reinbold shared that advertisements have been run in multiple venues and that the deadline for applications is the end of September.
 - Mrs. DeMelfi explained that the JOC members are taking this decision very seriously. She shared that she is thrilled with the work Mr. Reinbold has done thus far and shared that placing an Interim Administrative Director was a process, as well. She said that the goal of the members of the JOC is to select who is best for the students, the staff, and the taxpayers.

Approval of Payment of Bills

A.	MOTION by Mr. Paules, SECONDED by Fund and Other Accounts.	Mr. Foe	ller to approve	Payment of Bills - General
	ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Houser – Weatherly Mr. Foeller - Lehighton Mr. Paules – Palmerton Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	Yes	No Absent	Abstain Abstain Motion carried.
Approval of	Treasurer's Reports (August 2023)			
A.	MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDEL August 2023 showing a final balance of \$55 Student Activities Account.			
	ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Houser - Weatherly Mr. Foeller - Lehighton Mr. Paules - Palmerton Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	Yes	No Absent	Abstain Abstain Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Mr. Reinbold introduced the following for their individual monthly report:

- A. Principal's Report Mrs. Michelle Allen, Principal
 - The 2023-2024 school year hit the ground running with strong enrollment in all of our technical areas. We currently have 414 students.
 - In the first days of school, rigorous bell-to-bell instruction was taking place in all classroom settings. Activity Period will be taking place by-weekly with several new and exciting activities this year including a chess club, meditation club, marketing club, hairstyling club and robotics club along with favorites from last year such as Dungeon's and Dragons and e-Sports. During this time, students will also receive tutoring as needed.
 - After school help is taking place on Monday's and Thursday's for students who may need
 extra help in their subject areas and for clubs to meet and work on larger projects. Class
 officer elections, competition preparation and other club events have begun as well. The
 DECA organization has been promoting school-wide membership and has begun several
 community service events and HOSA has scheduled their first Blood Drive in October. The

- house project is actively taking shape with the HVAC class working on the plumbing while Carpentry students are hanging beautiful wood wall coverings in the living areas.
- Staff have also been actively planning educational field trips, fundraisers and school-wide events such as an upcoming Halloween Dance in October. The Friends of CCTI parent group graciously donated a water bottle to every student and is actively involved in assisting families and helping as chaperones.
- Overall, the start of the year has been very positive and students are engaged in a variety of educational experiences.
- B. Business Administrator's Report Mr. Jeffry P. Deutsch, Business Administrator
 - No increase is currently being forecasted for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget year.
 - Update on the 2022-2023 Audit:

We are gathering the necessary information required by our auditors for the 6/30/2023 audit.

The 2022-2023 audit report should be published for the November JOC meeting.

• Update on 2024-2025 Budget

Note: No overall increase is currently being forecast for the 2024-2025 Operating Budget year for the five Carbon County school districts.

C. Facilitator of Special Education Report - Mrs. Christine Trovato, Facilitator of Special Education

Mrs. Trovato shared a presentation informing the members of the JOC and the public on information and updates pertaining to McKinney-Vento.

Following is information contained in her monthly written report:

CCTI's Special Population Numbers

CCTI's current special population numbers: 105 students with IEPs or 504 Service Plans (79 IEPs; 26 504 plans), 6 with Medical Action Plans, 1 Gifted IEP student, 3 English Language Learners, 0 Homeless students and 1 Foster student.

CCTI Special Population Updates

Carbon Career & Technical Institute's Special Education Policy, #113, has some updates that are attached for review and the second reading by the Joint Operations Committee (see attached).

Informational Purposes

Homeless, Foster & Students Experiencing Educational Instability

- A Brief Overview of the law & its history
- Homeless, Foster, Unaccompanied Youth & Educational Instability defined
- The Scale of Homelessness
- Characteristics & Difficulties of homelessness
- Challenges for educators
- Addressing the needs of homeless & foster care students

Reminders

CCTI offers tutoring and extra help for students during the school day and after school on Mondays and Thursdays. Sign up is required at least 2 days in advance. Transportation and a

snack is provided at no cost. The following link is used to sign up. http://carboncti.org/students/

D. Building and Grounds Report - Mr. Ken Walters, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Walters mentioned that the fall Occupational Advisory Committee is coming up and that equipment needs will be discussed.

- E. Technology Report Mr. Nate Rinda, Director of Technology
 - Chromebooks 1-to-1 Chromebook phase complete. All students have a Google Chromebook.
 - PowerSchool Parent/Student portal opened. School year started off well.
 - Student accounts All new student accounts are ready. Domain, Google, Adobe, Microsoft 365 and more for those who need.
 - Website Continued updates and modifications to the new site.
 - Server upgrades New servers installed with very little downtime. Battery backups (UPS) upgrades performed.
 - Drafting Design Technology Computer lab software updates and replaced the HP Color Laserjet printer.
 - School Messenger Database updates.
 - CDT/ESL-WIDA/Keystones Set up the database information and started setting up test sessions for CDT/ESL-WIDA testing.
 - Copiers Replacement plan in place.
 - SmartPass Working on database setup and preparation of Kiosk sign-out operations.
 - Continued daily technology support/service For all of CCTI.

Items of Business

Personnel

MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller that the following motions be approved:

Resignation Accepted

A. to accept the resignation of the following individual as a School-Wide Co-Curricular Activity and Student Club/Organization Advisor/Mentor, at the established rates for the 2023-2024 school year:

SkillsUSA Advisors - Harold Resh

Salary Adjusted

Jaiai	y Aujusteu
В.	that the 2023-2024 salary for the following individual be adjusted as indicated as provided in the existing Agreement between the Carbon Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee and the Carbon Career & Technical Institute Education Association:
	Robert Fehr, Welding Instructor \$48,900 – 2023-2024 Salary + 1,100 – BA-BS-BEQU \$50,000 – Adjusted 2023-2024 Salary
	ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Houser - Weatherly Mr. Foeller - Lehighton Mr. Paules - Palmerton Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley Yes No Absent Abstain
MOT	ION by Mr. Paules, SECONDED by Mr. Strubinger that the following motions be approved:
Resig	nation Accepted
C.	to accept the letter of resignation received from Anna Leigh Conway, Science Teacher, dated August 29, 2023.
Categ	ory C (long-term) Substitute Science Teacher Approved
D.	to approve Larissa Genetti as a Category C (long-term) substitute Science Teacher, effective September 22, 2023 for a period of ninety-one (91) days at a step 1 pro-rated salary per the current Agreement between the Carbon Career & Technical Institute (CCTI) Joint Operating Committee and the CCTI Education Association. Note: Following the completion of the ninety-one day period, Mrs. Genetti will return to her previously approved position of Building Substitute.
	ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Houser - Weatherly Mr. Foeller - Lehighton Mr. Paules - Palmerton Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley

Motions carried.

Science Teacher Appointed

E.

Career & Technical Institute (CCTI) Joint Association.	: Operati	ng Co1	mmittee a	nd the CCT	I Educati
ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes				
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton	$\overline{\boxtimes}$				
Mr. Paules - Palmerton	$\overline{\boxtimes}$				
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe	$\overline{\square}$				
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	Ħ	一百	Ħ	Ħ	

MOTION by Mr. Foeller, SECONDED by Ms. Houser to appoint Amy Guth Science Teacher,

effective September 22, 2023 at a step 1 salary per the current Agreement between the Carbon

Motion carried.

MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller that the following motions be approved:

Teacher Mentors Appointed

F. to appoint the following individuals as Teacher Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year at the established stipend:

Angela Sablich* (Larissa Genetti, Science Teacher) Maritza Reinbold* (Donna McClain, Health Medical Instructor) Maya Kowalcyk (Amy Guth, Science Teacher)

Note: Mrs. Sablich was appointed mentor to Mrs. McClain at the 05/18/2023 JOC meeting. The change better matches the skill set and knowledge base of each individual mentor.

CTE Instructional Aide (Digital Marketing and Graphic Design) Appointed

G. to appoint Libby Smith as CTE Instructional Aide (Digital Marketing and Graphic Design) at a Step 1 salary effective September 22, 2023 per the current CCTI ESPA Employment Agreement.

Paraprofessional Mentor Appointed

H. to appoint the following individual as Paraprofessional Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year at the established stipend:

Kevin Wagner (Libby Smith, Instructional Aide for Digital Marketing and Graphic Design)

Revised Paraprofessional Appointments Approved

I. to approve the following revised appointments as Paraprofessional Mentor for the 2023-2024 school year at the established stipend:

John Rogers (Salvatore LoPresti) Heather Cassidy (Dean John Wychulis)

Note: Mrs. Cassidy was appointed mentor to Mr. LoPresti at the 06/15/2023 JOC meeting. Mr. Rogers was appointed mentor to Mr. Wychulis at the 07/20/2023 JOC meeting. The change better matches the skill set and knowledge base of each individual mentor.

Substitutes Approved

J. that the below listed individuals be approved to substitute for the 2023-2024 school year at the established rates, as follows:

Michele Dominic - Health Medical Teacher, Health Medical Instructional Aide
Delmar Griggs - Teacher, Instructional Aide, Tutor, Part-Time Integrated Math
Instructor, Chaperone*
Tara McLean - Custodial/Maintenance/Groundskeeper/Cleaner*
Eileen Mirchel - Teacher, Instructional Aide
Jo Anne Mitzen - School Nurse

Note: *through August 2024

Extra Help Instructors Appointed

K. to appoint the following individuals as Extra Help Instructors in conjunction with the after-school program at \$30 per hour on an as needed/scheduled basis:

Stephen Anderson	Diane Hyjurick	Harold Resh
Scott Bartholomew	Michele Klock	Carly Rinda
Michael Baumgardt	Maya Kowalcyk	John Rogers
Marie Bieling	Kevin Kuehner	Angela Sablich
Kenneth Bond	Ashley Little	Rebecca Schaeffer
Heather Cassidy	Salvatore LoPresti	Brandi Schmoyer
Jacqueline Cole	Tammy Marshall	Libby Smith*
Eugene Colosimo	Donna McClain	William Sorokin
Anna Leigh Conway	Stephen Nesler	Kevin Sowa
Rainbeau Currier	Walter O'Donnell	Richard Stettler
Robert Fehr	Jeremy Pease	Philip Strubinger
Michael Garrant	Justin Pshar	Julian Valentini
Larissa Genetti	Ashleigh Rehrig	Kevin Wagner
Amy Guth*	Maritza Reinbold	Michael Wildoner (con't)
Jeffrey Hazelton	Hal C. Resh	Dean John Wychulis

Note: *Contingent upon approved appointment.

Homebound Instructor Approved

L. to approve the following homebound instructors on an as needed basis, at the approved hourly rate:

Maya Kowalcyk, English Teacher

CCTI Summer Robotics Camp Instructor and Payment Approved

M. that the below listed individual be approved retroactively, as CCTI Summer Robotics Camp Instructor and that payment be disbursed based on his current per diem rate, as follows:

Michael Garrant, Computer Information Technology Instructor

Note: Camp was held August 10, 11, 16 & 17, 2023 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes			
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton	\boxtimes			
Mr. Paules – Palmerton	$\overline{\boxtimes}$			
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe	\boxtimes			
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	\boxtimes			
				Motions carried.

Culinary Arts Instructional Aide Appointed

N. MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to appoint Alexandria Ventrella as Culinary Arts Instructional Aide at a Step 1 salary effective September 22, 2023 per the current CCTI ESPA Employment Agreement.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes			
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton	\boxtimes			
Mr. Paules – Palmerton	$\overline{\boxtimes}$			
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe	$\overline{\boxtimes}$			
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	$\overline{\boxtimes}$			
•				Motion carried.

Chaperone Approved

O.	MOTION by Ms. Houser, SECONDED by Mr. Paules to approve the following individual as Chaperone through August 2024:					
	Lisa Kennedy					
	VOTE: YES - $\underline{5}$ NO - $\underline{0}$ ABSENT - $\underline{0}$ ABSTENTIONS - $\underline{0}$ Motion carried.					
Letter	of Appointment Acknowledged					
P.	MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to acknowledge receipt of the Letter of Appointment of Alternate Representative to the Carbon Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee (1-Year Term – December 2022 through December 2023) as follows:					
	Panther Valley School District - Mr. Pat Leonzi					
	Note: Mr. Leonzi will be filling the unexpired term of Mr. Steven Foster.					
	VOTE: YES - $\underline{5}$ NO - $\underline{0}$ ABSENT - $\underline{0}$ ABSTENTIONS - $\underline{0}$					
Additi	ional Hours Approved					
Q.	MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Ms. Houser that the following individuals be employed for additional hours (as indicated below) at the individual's per diem hourly rate, for additional hours worked during Business Office transition period and the 2022-2023 audit from July 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023:					
	Lisa Zurn, Business Office Assistant/Secretary (Payroll) – not to exceed 40 hours Sandi Kohutka, Business Office Assistant/Secretary (Accounts Payable) – not to exceed 40 hours					
	ROLL CALL VOTE: Ms. Houser - Weatherly Mr. Foeller - Lehighton Mr. Paules - Palmerton Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley Yes No Absent Abstain					

Education

MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller that the following motions be approved:

Expulsion Agreement Approved

A. to approve the expulsion agreement for student ID 8494, as presented.

Halloween Themed Dance Approved

B. to approve hosting a Halloween themed (costumes optional) dance for CCTI students and their approved out of school guests (20 years old and under, with proper identification). The dance will be held in the cafeteria of the school from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2023 and will have an admission charge of \$5.00 per person.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain	1
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes				
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton	\boxtimes				
Mr. Paules - Palmerton	\boxtimes				
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe	\boxtimes				
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	\boxtimes				
·					Motions carried.

Budget & Finance

Lease Agreement Approved

A. MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Foeller to approve the lease agreement with Edwards Business Systems for the replacement of five copiers per the supplied proposal.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstair	1
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes				
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton					
Mr. Paules - Palmerton	\boxtimes				
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe					
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	\boxtimes				
					Motion carried.

Buildings & Grounds

NONE

Administrative

MOTION by Mr. Paules, SECONDED by Mr. Strubinger that the following motions be approved:

Second Reading and Adoption, Policy #113

A. to approve the second reading and adoption of the following revised CCTI policies, as presented:

#113 (PROGRAMS) - Special Education

Course Handbook Purchase Approved

B. to approve the purchase of 1000 CCTI Course handbooks at a cost of \$7,500.

Updated CCTI Cosmetology Clinic Services and Pricing Approved

C. to approve updated CCTI Cosmetology Clinic services and prices, as presented.

Grant Submission Acknowledged

D. to acknowledge the submission of a supplemental equipment grant for a Powermatic Jointer, a LeBlond Gearhead 16-speed Precision Lathe, and an ARES Emergency Care Manikin totaling approximately \$80.000.

Workshop Attendance Approved

E. that Nate Rinda, Director of Technology attend the PACTA (Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators) 2023 Fall Workshop for CTE Technology Coordinators, October 17 & 18, 2023 at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, State College, PA at a total cost not to exceed \$500.00 to cover registration, lodging, and mileage.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Yes	No	Absent	Abstair	1
Ms. Houser - Weatherly	\boxtimes				
Mr. Foeller - Lehighton	\boxtimes				
Mr. Paules - Palmerton	\boxtimes				
Mr. Strubinger - Jim Thorpe	\boxtimes				
Mrs. DeMelfi - Panther Valley	\boxtimes				
					Motions carried.

Administrative Reports

- A. MOTION by Mr. Strubinger, SECONDED by Mr. Paules to accept Administrative Reports from the following:
 - a. Mrs. Michelle Allen, Principal
 - b. Mrs. Christine Trovato, Facilitator of Special Education
 - c. Mrs. Francine Kluck, Adult Education Site Supervisor

VOTE: YES - 5 NO - 0 ABSENT - 0 ABSTENTIONS - 0

Motion carried.

Old Business

NONE

New and Miscellaneous Business

NONE

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:

Thursday – October 19, 2023

Adjournment

Ms. Houser moved, seconded by Mr. Strubinger, that the meeting adjourn. By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Christina A. Graver Joint Operating Committee Secretary