

## **METRO TECHNOLOGY CENTERS SYNOPSIS OF APRIL 3, 2007, REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

After the meeting was called to order, roll call taken, and a quorum was established, Mr. Steve Stockwell delivered the invocation, and Mrs. Linda K. Ford-Powers led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no public expressions.

Dr. Branscum updated the Board on legislative issues, and then Dr. Danene Vincent gave the MetroQuest update. She said they have met with OCPS administration about the possibilities for partnerships. They discussed opportunities in the alternative school arena. OCPS had planned to offer an evening alternative school, 4:30-8:30 p.m., but parents expressed concerns about their children being out after dark. We told them MTC facilities are, for the most part, vacant during the hours of 2:30-6:30 p.m. and discussed the possibility of housing alternative schools and integrating into those individual career planning with a career focus. They also are using our facilities for their executive council meetings and are inviting us to attend when there are items of mutual benefit. Sherri Smith-Gray provided training earlier today on Demystifying Baldrige. Seven people from OCPS attended, including three cabinet level administrators and three principals. We are excited about the opportunity to work more closely with them.

Dr. Vincent updated the Board about Carl Perkins IV legislation, which was signed into law last August. Several changes were made. A big change is that the money is tied to high skill, high wage, high demand jobs. The federal level has set the high wage criteria between \$15 and \$16 per hour. We do have programs that prepare students at that level. While we can continue to train for lower wage jobs, the majority of our programs will need to fit the new criteria.

Another change deals with articulation and dual enrollment. In the past the Carl Perkins legislation has capped the ability to use Perkins money at the associate degree level. The funds focused on careers up to the associate degree level. The new legislation has removed the cap, which means we can work with colleges/universities to develop seamless education through the university level.

Another issue is that the state will have to approve programs of study, and every recipient will have to offer at least one state-approved program of study. They are taking programs as we know them and breaking them into clusters. This will create a lot of work initially, but students will be able to customize their training programs. This has to be in place by September 2008.

Another area relates to academic attainment performance measures. We do not know how this will be handled: reading test, graduation test, an end of instruction test. We will be obligated to give tests or arrange with an appropriate testing group to provide a testing service. They are going to try to merge these with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This will be a challenge for Oklahoma because our students receive their academic courses at their home high school and not at the technology center, as some states provide.

Site Directors' Reports: Barbara Loudermilk reported on a student success story. The student, single parent, father of two, went through the BEST (TANF) program and transferred to SBC for the Automotive Services Technology program. Because of MTC's relationship with Tinker, this student is participating in a diesel internship at Tinker, with the possibility of being hired full-time. The student is very excited about this possibility and being able to support his family.

Jeanne Webb reported that the Pre-Engineering students returned from participating for the first time in a robotics competition. They placed 17 out of 52 teams. This is wonderful, especially considering this was the first time the program had participated in this type of event. Mrs. Webb said they plan to bring the students and their robot to the next board meeting. She said that the FCCLA state contest was held last weekend, and the SkillsUSA state contest will be held the first week of May.

Linda Manaugh said they had the opportunity to participate in a wonderful community service project with Whiz Kids. Whiz Kids has over 900 volunteers who tutor students throughout the metro area in reading and math. They have an annual banquet to honor the volunteers. Referred to us by Elaine Schuster, they asked if we could help with food and could also provide servers. The Chef/Catering class prepared desserts and breads, and students from the

Culinary Arts, Chef/Catering and Hospitality classes were servers, in addition to several MTC staff. Ms. Manaugh reports that two of Adrainne Oppong's students were 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners and one student of Sarah Collins' class also placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state FCCLA competition.

Steve Stockwell informed the Board that an article will appear in THE OKLAHOMAN about the TIP program between Blumenthall and MTC, which will result in the creation of 100 new jobs. He reported that they learned earlier today that another firm will be hiring 300 new workers, and they will also work with MTC through a TIP agreement. Mr. Stockwell reported that MTC will be the first technology center in the state to offer training in the new Microsoft operating system, Vista, with training scheduled to begin April 27. This new system will replace XP over the next couple of years.

Paul Howard reported that the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Options Job Fair, in conjunction with Workforce Oklahoma, is upcoming. This partnership attracts a number of vendors. Last year 80 vendors participated, and some 2,500 individuals participated. This year we expect 100 vendors and expect at least the same number, if not more, of individuals to participate. Dr. Branscum said the job fair is a very positive event for MTC's students.

Ms. Schuster explained the Whiz Kids program and how she referred them to MTC for assistance. She said she heard from them, and they were amazed at how we pulled together to assist them. They said it was a very rewarding experience for them. She expressed appreciation to all of those who participated. Dr. Branscum said that MTC faculty, staff and students are involved in many community activities, and it is difficult to enumerate all of them. He said that the Chef/Catering students were able to prepare the food thanks to the food products being donated.

Danene Vincent said one of our core values is that we will do whatever it takes to reach our community, and it is obvious this is occurring because we are being called on to do many things. We have participated in the South OKC Chamber of Commerce's education banquet for several years and have awarded a scholarship to a deserving student through their scholarship program. Mrs. Loudermilk said that this year's scholarship is being given to a student who wants to study Automotive Service Technology and then go to OSU-Okmulgee to continue his training.

Dr. Vincent said that this year we have had four student interns. Three of them have been hired for full-time positions at MTC. The fourth student will be graduating with her associate's degree from OSU-OKC in May. She was recently notified that she has been selected as a UCO emerging leader and will continue her studies there next fall. She found out yesterday she is also receiving another \$1,700 from Phi Theta Kappa.

Items approved by the Board:

Minutes of the March 6, 2007, Regular Board Meeting

Donation of a 1997 Honda Civic

Budget Transfers

Transfer of funds from the school activity accounts to the General Fund

Adding seven new cooperative agreements and updating two current agreements

Declared equipment as excess

Agreement for Legal Services

Personnel Items

FY 2007 Encumbrances # 703210 - # 703481

Purchase of hand tools from Snap On Tools for resale to students

Purchase of 19 Dell OptiPlex 745 Minitower computers for the Adult Computer Repair and Networking Program

Purchase of six servers and a server rack from Dell to provide critical fault tolerance and disaster recovery capabilities for the district network

Purchase of welding equipment the Welding program

Purchase of a velocity Computerized Measuring System for the Automotive Collision Repair program

Purchase of 30 computer systems from Dell Computers for the Academic Centers at the Health Careers Center

Though scheduled, an Executive Session was not needed and was, therefore, not held.