

**Wichita Falls Independent School District
Automotive Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
11 a.m., Carrigan Career Center**

CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Wood, WFISD's CTE specialist, called the Automotive Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 11 a.m.

PARTICIPANTS

Hunter Dowell with Bruckners
Franklin Ritch with Northstar
Shannon Moore with Hunter Engineering
Vince Brown with WFFL (Wichita Falls Ford and Lincoln)
Larry Krugle with WFISD
Jessica Bennett with WFISD
Synthia Kirby, Carrigan principal
Chris Dollar, Armies Body Supply
David Boller, WFISD
Tony Beagles with Professional Auto Care
Ann Work Goodrich with WFISD
Michelle Wood, CTE Coordinator

BUSINESS

The group elected a chair (Shannon Moore) and a Secretary (Hunter Dowell) to direct the meeting. A WFISD employee may not hold these positions, according to rules put forth by the Perkins Grant, which sponsored the meeting.

OVERVIEW

Michelle Wood introduced the forum, explaining that the school district wanted to make sure that the decisions made for the CTE Center and its program would help create the employees the community needs. "We want to make sure that

what we do matches what you need,” she said. “This is a formal way to do it.” She asked for input on how they are running the programs and feedback on how their plans align with what the community needs. “We are excited for you to be part of our Advisory,” she said. WFISD wants to make all its programs community based and not created “in silos.”

COURSE SEQUENCING

Mrs. Wood passed out a copy of all tracks in the new CTE program. Students choose from five endorsements. They begin as freshmen with the first of four courses that they will take in high school in that particular endorsement.

The current freshmen and sophomores are in the new pathways; the juniors and seniors are enrolled in some of the original coursework but not in the new ones.

In the Transportation Track, freshmen start out with Principles of Industrial Trades or Principles of Agriculture Science. Then in 10th grade, they choose between Automotive Tech or Collision Repair and Refinishing.

The Principles of Industrial Trades course is NEW. It exposes students to opportunities within industrial trades. They also learn to read a tape measure and tackle the NCCER (The National Center for Construction Education and Research) core: construction math, blueprint reading, drywall framing, they tour labs, and take OSHA safety training.

(The NCCER curriculum core was developed with 125 construction CEOs and experts in the business to revolutionize construction training.)

This course will be “modified somewhat” next year, said Mrs. Wood.

The goal is to get students into the program at a younger age and keep them longer. Frequently the program loses students their senior year to work. “We want them to get all their classes and certifications, and then work their senior year *in their field*,” said Mrs. Wood.

Next year will be the first year to accept sophomores.

Synthia Kirby said the program has had a problem with retention. “Many graduate early. Plain ol’ early release. We want to try to keep them. If they graduate early, we want them to go with a certification, knowledge and skills,” she said.

She only wants them flipping burgers if that’s what they WANT to do.

“This is all new, the first time it’s been implemented this way,” she said. Now students will come into the automotive tech or collision repair courses with some background in the industry.

ENROLLMENT

“It’s great. We have pretty full classes,” said Mrs. Wood.

Another change is that the district is accepting two sections of students, each with 15 or 16 students, which doubles the enrollment.

Mrs. Kirby said there will be two “beginner” classes. The program will be playing catch-up for a couple years.

David Boller said he will have two classes of 15 kids each. "Fifteen is the max I can take for a senior program. It's basically full," he said.

CURRICULUM

Larry Krugle said he uses CDX Automotive, using its Diesel books.

This is his fifth year, and he's still trying different ways to get kids to do bookwork. "They don't like taking notes or reading. But as fast as technology is moving, they've got to," said Mr. Krugle.

Mr. Boller said his students also don't like to read. He uses I-CAR for senior certifications, OSHA for safety certification. He will use a textbook as make-up work or a supplement. "I look at mine as more of an art form. It's hands-on," he said.

Shannon Moore said workers have been elevated from being called mechanics to the new name of technicians. They work with "very high tech machines" now, he said. There's nothing basic about it anymore.

Mrs. Kirby said curriculum must follow the TEKS, the state's list of skills that must be taught in the classroom. It's the minimum requirement. The list of TEKS for CTE will be changing in the fall, she said.

Mrs. Wood said every 10 years, the state does a new textbook adoption for each subject area. CTE will get its new books in Fall 2017, dovetailing with the opening of the WFISD's new CTE Center. "We have one year to make do with our (old) books," she said.

Meanwhile the district is doing curriculum development for its principles class—"Principles of Industrial Trades." The district needs standards for these introductory classes so all students get the same foundation.

Mr. Krugle said that ASE (National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence) has a student certification with tests in 8-9 areas that is still relatively new. It's a 40-50 question test and a student must get half the questions right to get certified. One of his seniors got all nine certifications. "Most have 2-3 of them," he said.

Mr. Boller said he uses I-CAR, which offers "way over 100 certifications." They are online courses, with Power Points and checkpoints throughout. ASE is broad. He sets each student up in the system and requires that they earn at least one certification. "Most don't want to do more," he said.

The experience helps them know the basics. There are no in-person classes.

Mrs. Wood asked the group if there were any certifications they knew of that they would want students to earn.

Mr. Moore said he still looks at ASE certifications.

Chris Dollar said in body shops the first thing he looks at is an I-CAR certification.

Mr. Boller said he received his certification through ASE.

Vince Brown said "We look for prior experience with Ford," he said. "Everything they have plays into it. We spend money and time for Ford training."

Mrs. Wood asked if Ford has ever done a training with high school seniors that would be helpful to them. "A practicum course might be helpful," she said.

Mr. Boller said a lot depends on what corporation the district chooses to go through. Blowtherm, for example, will advise how to use its equipment. They will demonstrate and certify students on their equipment.

Mr. Moore said, "We do the same thing with Hunter products." This is a big deal in juvenile detention centers, where they've installed fully equipped shops and send students there to retrain. "It's a good round-robin deal," he said. "Everybody wants to help each other."

Hunter Dowell said there's a shortage of technicians now.

Mr. Brown agreed. "It's bad right now."

Mr. Krugle said his students are excited to pass certifications. They can be very competitive, and the competition is good for kids.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

WFISD students typically do fairly well in Skills USA competitions.

WFISD has done well recently. Students entered three of its contests this year: Collision, Refinishing and Estimation. They earned second in collision, third in refinishing and first in estimation. The student who took first in estimation will move on to state. Two females won second in state. "It's crazy hard to medal," said Mr. Boller.

Mr. Krugle said in automotive, students won second in district and went on to state competition. They won second in diesel. In aviation, one female student, Amelia, won district AND state and is going to nationals. The Rider junior was going to get out of school early but decided to stay for her senior year to compete again next year.

Mrs. Wood said students also participate in National Technical Honor Society if their grades are high enough. This group is small now, but Mrs. Kirby said she hopes it will expand to everybody once the CTE Center opens. "It's a growing organization and a good opportunity for kids to get involved," she said.

Right now, it's only open to CTE students who earn a 3.0 GPA in all classes, not just CTE courses.

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

The building of the new, 123,000 square foot CTE Center is underway now. Mrs. Wood said the district is looking forward, wanting to purchase items this year that can move over to the new Center, but holding off on the rest. "We want to make sure we're going in the right direction. Most of you have been involved quite a bit. There is a lot up in the air for both programs," she said.

Architecture and construction each gave supply budgets, which were cut. "We are still working through the process," she said. "We're trying to order smaller equipment now."

Mr. Boller said he is often asked if he teaches some of the newer skills, such as how to work on plastic bumpers. There were no plastic bumpers years ago when the TEKS (state

requirements) were written, so there is no such thing as plastic bumper repair in the TEKS. Nor does the district have the equipment for such work. "It can be difficult to get funding for that," he said.

The TEKS will be changing in the next year, and he is unclear if it will focus on the same core skills as it has in the past.

Will plastic repair be included? Will aluminum repair be included? "It may be in the new TEKS," he said. "We will have to figure out what we need."

Mrs. Wood told the group, "We would love your help. Tell us what kids need to know. We would also take any free equipment..."

"Even if it's broken," said Mr. Boller. "The kids will take it apart. They tear it down and learn a lot."

Mrs. Wood said to keep that in mind when community members are cleaning out and giving things away.

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

We just want to make you aware that we serve all students, no matter the disability, said Mrs. Wood.

Females are not a majority in this field, but we do attract some girls, she said. Some students have disabilities, which the district must help with.

Mr. Boller said in his senior group, 70 percent of the students have some sort of learning disability. This adds challenges to the teaching. For example, he has had a deaf student.

Mr. Moore said he once had a deaf employee who was one of his top employees.

Mr. Boller said if they're interested in the field and nontraditional, they often do very well.

Mrs. Kirby said when a student has a disability, the teacher must reteach, reteach and reteach. It would be helpful to get an aide to service students with special needs. Some have emotional needs and would benefit from personal assistance so minimize their stress so they don't have a meltdown, she said.

The CTE Center will be 123,000 square feet. The industrial side will face a yard where work will be done.

There will also be a two-story wing with classes for everything from culinary to criminal justice to cosmetology to AV production. "We want students to get a taste of what they might want to do," said Mrs. Wood.

The goal is to have the building full of students when it opens in Fall 2017. Just as students will be transported from their home campuses to the CTE Center when it opens in one year, so this next year, students will be bused from their home campus to whatever campus sponsors their CTE specialty. These dry runs will help the district work out the kinks in its transportation plans.

This committee will meet again in the fall, said Mrs. Wood. She asked participants to invite anyone else they knew who would contribute thoughts and ideas to the project of making the CTE Center and its programs the best they can be.

The meeting ended at 11:51 a.m.