

**Wichita Falls Independent School District  
Education and Training Advisory Committee Meeting  
May 19, 2016  
3:05, Wichita Falls High School**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Michelle Wood, WFISD's CTE specialist, called the Education and Training Advisory Committee Meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**PARTICIPANTS**

Gary Don Harkey, Vernon College  
Christina Feldman, Vernon College  
Michaelle Kitchen, MSU  
Leann Curry, MSU  
Gwen Hilliard, WFHS  
Jessica Bennett, WFISD  
Carrie Yoakum, WFISD  
Amanda Gonzales, WFISD  
Greta Benavides, WFISD  
Cyndy Kohl, WFISD HR  
Ward Roberts, WFISD  
Michelle Wood, CTE Specialist, WFISD  
Ann Work Goodrich, communications specialist, WFISD

**BUSINESS**

The group elected a chair (Dr. Gary Don Harkey) and a secretary (Dr. Michaelle Kitchen) 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**

The Education and Training class for students has changed from a child development course in caring for a baby, which is not a career pathway, to a class that will move a student toward earning a CDA license. The program will feature more about educational and developmental milestones, mental health information and how to identify child abuse, according to Michelle Wood.

## **COURSE SEQUENCES**

There is a 500-hour work requirement to earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential. It is the most widely recognized credential in early childhood education. However, with the 500-hour work requirement, students may not qualify for taking the test by the time they graduate from high school.

Students must work at an accredited day care, not volunteer. The work time must be signed off on by a day care director, said Mrs. Wood.

The core of the program is to teach students how to set up childcare centers, set up routines, and perform a variety of childcare tasks, such as taking children to the bathroom. "It's more than just 'Nobody died' (in your care)," said Mrs. Wood.

In their junior year, students will go to the CTE Center for their classes. The first two years of courses will be at their home campuses. It will be helpful to get students doing rotations to various schools: elementary schools, Head Start, PALS.

They can earn an education aide certification during those two years and get a job as an aide with a school district like Wichita Falls ISD. They will be qualified for this position or to continue on to a four-year education degree.

The objective is to give students various stopping points on their education journey in case they need to get into the work force. They could stop after earning the certification to become an aide in high school, after two years at Vernon College or stop with a bachelor's degree in education after completing four years at Midwestern State University.

"Hitting every pathway is our goal," said Mrs. Wood.

The Principles of Public Service (a 9<sup>th</sup> grade class that leads into the 10<sup>th</sup> grade "Child Development" class) covers a broad range of topics. The teacher starts every unit with a career scavenger hunt. The track covers child development, hotel management and restaurant management, court systems and practices, and cosmetology, so as the class launched into a presentation about a certain area, students had to find three jobs in each area. "The kids liked that. They knew what to expect," said one.

They listened to a number of guest speakers in the various career fields.

Students who thought they knew about, say, law enforcement, thinking that it was just about police work, learned there were a lot more possible careers in that field available to them.

Even in the education field, many students just think "teacher." We tell them, "No, there are all these other choices, too."

Mrs. Wood said the dilemma for students is always the same: How do you make them choose a specialty interest if they don't know what they don't know? They need to explore more interests.

Their search starts in 8<sup>th</sup> grade with Career Cruising, which polls their interests and preferences to give them 40 possible career choices.

One teacher said she does the Myers-Briggs personality test twice -- at the beginning and end of the year, and we “kept coming up with the same answers,” she said. “For a lot of the kids, this has helped.” They say, “I didn’t know I could do that.”

One woman asked if the course had a job-shadowing component.

Mrs. Wood said in the student’s senior year, they may work at a job for 15 hours a week and get school credit. This lets them out earlier in the day. “We’re phasing out the old work program and phasing in internships and placements,” said Mrs. Wood. “It’s not just, ‘I work at McDonalds, and I get out at 1 p.m.,’” said Mrs. Wood. The internships are designed to be more purposeful and specific to a student’s interests and skills.

## **ENROLLMENT**

This track has drawn 125 students at each of the three high schools. They are now in the Principles classes in ninth grade at each high school.

“It’s a big number,” said Mrs. Wood.

The Child Development track (in 10<sup>th</sup> grade) has drawn 75 students at each campus, “a big group as well,” said Mrs. Wood.

It’s a bigger group than the group for hotel and restaurant management or court systems. “We are anticipating court systems and culinary will grow once we are at the CTE Center.

They are not exposed to it now. There is a lot of culinary participation at Rider because of its kitchen,” said Mrs. Wood.

## **CURRICULUM**

“It’s a work in progress,” said Mrs. Wood.

The district is paying for curriculum development this summer for its Principles course. The district plans to use the CDA curriculum and make sure the same information is taught to everyone in the classes at each campus.

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

“I think CDA is the best,” said Christina Feldman. “I was director of YMCA. I recommend CDA. Most daycares need it. They are still using it at Vernon College.”

The TEKS (minimum state standards for classes) will change for culinary in 2017, said Mrs. Wood. When they come to the CTE Center as juniors, they will have their ServSafe certificate for managers – five levels up from the Food Handlers license.

Seniors can add another certification on handling alcohol, called the TABC certification (Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission). They have to be 18 to take it. The curriculum will add the hospitality component, not just cooking.

Soon WFISD administrators will be reviewing new textbooks for the 2017 textbook adoption.

Ward Roberts said that when he was in high school, he knew he wanted to be a teacher – a high school teacher, not an elementary teacher. But this track seems geared to early childhood, he said.

Students will be exposed to all levels but not required to get the CDA credential, said Mrs. Wood. They will benefit by having exposure to how children grow developmentally. A second class could deal with older students.

The child development classes teach up through adolescence and on into parenting and the elderly. The classes are usually only a semester, but WFISD gives students an entire year, so more can be covered.

Dr. Harkey said students should be encouraged to use their Spanish-speaking ability in education to teach ESL and English Language Learners students. There are wonderful stipends for such valuable teachers, he said.

“We want to help recruit more bilingual students,” said Mrs. Wood. “They don’t know how valuable they are.”

Bilingual students need to internalize, “Oh my gosh, there are so many opportunities for me if I just stick with it,” said Mrs. Wood. And then a teacher needs to help them and their families with whatever obstacles they meet because school districts in the North Texas area desperately need bilingual teachers and administrators.

Students in this coursework will need to learn the importance of confidentiality when they work with students in special education, said one teacher.

This is typical of the track, said Mrs. Wood. Students are sent to nursing homes and hospitals where they encounter information that they need to keep confidential.

“Where are the soft skills for workplace success taught?” asked one.

“Throughout,” said Mrs. Wood. “With guest speakers. At every track, we’re hearing that students can’t communicate, they don’t show up on time, they can’t write, they have no work ethic, they don’t know how to dress for success,” she said. “Everybody agrees if we can get them to show up to work on time, dressed appropriately and communicating appropriately, we will be successful.”

One teacher said she helps students create e-portfolios that include a resume. They are taught the proper way to use them. She also addresses the choices they make about social media, and “we tell them everything out there is open game” for employers.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

For Hispanics, there is BESO: Bilingual Education Student Organization.

Other organizations:

Future Teachers of America

Skills USA

National Technical Honor Society (a 3.0 GPA required from a student in all his classes, not just career classes)

Midwestern State University has both BESO and Future Teachers of America organizations on campus. Perhaps WFISD could become a sub-chapter of both, said Mrs. Wood.

Dr. Harkey said there is an opportunity for mentoring of high school education students with college students.

When students are involved in organizations, they do better all around, said Mrs. Wood. It gives them purpose outside the classroom, accountability, and helps them work toward a goal – not just a class.

Dr. Harkey mentioned the CEC, the Council for Exceptional Children.

Another group is the NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

### **SUPPLIES**

This track does not have many supply needs.

The CTE Center is designed with an education room and a large workroom where CTE students can lay out their supplies.

MSU contacts: Ed Schultz and Dr. Debra Kelley

One participant asked where an educator might go with a background in mental health. Answer: North Texas State Hospital, Red River, or Child Protective Services.

Another participant asked if the program will have a library of children's books?

Ward Roberts joked that he would start the Ward Roberts Lending Library.

### **SPECIAL POPULATIONS**

WFISD does not choose its students, so the district opens its programs to all special needs children who may need extra accommodations.

There is little gender bias in the education field. Classes are evenly split between males and females.

The Principles classes for ninth graders is “pretty even,” said Mrs. Wood.

The CTE Center is under construction...now facing seven days of rain delay.

The Center will be 123,000 square feet. Its two-story wing will house education classes and the bistro, among other tracks.

The goal is to have 1,000 students coming and going daily from the building. A total of 450 students will be traveling during the day from high school campus to high school campus next year until the CTE Center opens next year.

One participant asked what the district will do with the Carrigan Career Center, which currently houses CTE classes.

Mrs. Wood said she was taken aback when she held the automotive advisory committee and one elderly man said of Carrigan, “I went here in ’62, and it looks exactly the same.”

The future of Carrigan is unclear at this time, she said. The horticulture and daily living programs are at Harrell Accelerated Learning Center.

The next advisory meeting will be in September 2016. Teachers will have their newly written curriculum by then, and they will be asking the community how they can plug into it. By May 2017, there will be another advisory meeting when teachers can explain how the year went and assess what

worked and what didn't. "It will make your comments effective and worthwhile," said Mrs. Wood.

Mr. Roberts said he was excited for this new strand of education. He had others asking him how they could take part in it. "Transfer to WFISD!" said Mrs. Wood.

The meeting ended at 3:55 p.m.