



Regional Collaborative Meeting Minutes 7/11/2023

Meeting was called to order at 8:06 am.

In attendance:

Kevin Campbell (chair), Edye Graning, John Alberghini, Ethan Maurer, Mike Weston

Community Comments:

No Community Comments to share.

Approve Minutes:

Minutes from 6/5 will be approved by the committee at the next meeting

Discussion of Regional Technical Center needs with Mike Weston:

- Kevin Campbell: As a committee we are trying to firm up our short-term goals since we are a new committee.
- Before talking to the technical centers directly, it felt like a priority to talk with Mike Weston, principal of MMUHS first.
- Mike Weston:
 - We send approximately 70 students to tech centers.
 - Tech centers have changed who they “serve.” It used to be a direct pathway to getting a job. This has significantly changed, as a large percentage of those graduating are not going directly into the workforce, but instead pursuing additional education, whether it be a 2 year or 4 year program.
 - We have typically recommended many students to Essex because of the proximity to MMUHS.
 - Something MMU does differently is that we continue to have students stay connected with MMU. Students still do classes at MMU their “home high school.” 90 percent of students that attend CTE still take classes at MMU.
 - This keeps kids connected to their “home school.”
- Transportation can be challenging when the technology centers decide to change their start times. It would be better if schools were consulted first rather than told.
- Ethan: Are Junior and Seniors the only ones eligible?
 - No, there is a pre-tech program which includes around 15-20 kids. It is not a guarantee into the tech program.
- The tech centers come and do a presentation to students to explain all of their programs.

- There are some students who are not interested, for whatever reason, maybe comfort, distance or their social group.
- Ethan: How many students decline because they don't want to deal with the transportation aspect of it? Mike thinks in the range of 15 students. There are also students who apply and don't get in.
- Edye: Are there regional issues that it would be beneficial for the board to get involved with. Mike doesn't know if the tech centers are the number one priority. He feels alternative and unique regional programs would be beneficial to students.
- John: These collaborations are few and far between. Many are consistently trying to figure out systems in their local district and statewide issues.
 - We had some momentum, but there has been a lot of turnover among superintendents and COVID had an influence.
- Ethan: Has MMU thought about implementing something?
- Mike wants to consider something related to the environment.
- John - with the changes in the special ed rules, you may see fewer people on IEPs, but the same amount of needs.
- Mike: We are studying offering a stand alone, engineering practices class.
- Kevin: How do we know what our students need or want? Should we be doing post-graduate surveys?
 - Mike says it is something that has been talked about and tried, but it has been difficult to find a good way to do this.
- Mike: My experience with HS students is that they are not ready or interested in a 40-hour per week job after tech programs. Many students want to do something intern-like where they still have time for social and other activities.
- Ethan and John both think there might be a need for more regular meetings that are results driven.
- Kevin: I would have thought Covid would have leveled the playing field for CTE's. Did they do things remotely?
 - Mike: They did do a hybrid schedule, CTE aligned more with MMUHS than Burlington.
- Edye: As board members, are there specifics we can help pave the pathway for now?
 - Mike Weston: More connections between schools, the better.
 - Finding opportunities for collaboration and connections is helpful.

Other Business

Tuesday, August 8th at 8:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted by, Jenna Stewart