

**Fort Myers Technical College  
School Advisory Council  
Minutes of Meeting Held November 18, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 am. The minutes from the September 23 meeting were approved as presented. Attending: Dr. Brian Byrnes; Dr. Dante Ciolfi; Peg Elmore; Dianne Fabii; Janice Gentile, Nona Gronau; Suzan Harden; Dr. Lemuel Lawrence; Dr. John Meyer; Bill McCormick; Tyler Patak; Ron Pentiuk; Bob Peterson; Sandy Shimp.

Suzan Harden reminded the Council that FMTC is on Facebook. She encouraged all to “like” and “share” with others on their Facebook page. She re-introduced Diane Fabii, the new counselor, and welcomed Sandy Shimp back to FMTC as the new Financial Aid counselor. The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) is sponsoring a poinsettia sale now until November 24. The 2016-2017 school calendar was distributed with attention to the earlier start date of August 10. This will allow the schools to become more in tune with college breaks and finals, and provide flexibility in scheduling.

**DAC Update – Dr. Dante Ciolfi**

Dr. Ciolfi reported that one of the priorities of the school board is to form a Transportation Committee to address the bus situation. Mr. Teuber is overseeing this committee to address the issue of the 101 preventable accidents from the previous year.

Another issue that is high on the list is the proposed location of the new school, HSLLL. This seems to be a hot topic with local neighborhoods and businesses.

Our lobbyist in Tallahassee, Bob Cerra, presented his platform. He wants to address the capital outlay shortfall, millage cap reconsideration, increased funding for qualified instructors, taxes on internet sales, review of sales tax exemptions, greater autonomy of school board with regard to charter school applications, reject any new unfunded mandates, review standardized testing and hard data associated with them, address vendor failure. Bob even gave his email address: [bobcerra@comcast.com](mailto:bobcerra@comcast.com).

Nona asked Dante if there is research concerning the amount of study time involved in these tests, and the impact it has on the student. Suzan talked about the disruption to curriculum as well as actual testing hours for the students.

Tyler asked when the School Board will be expanded to seven members. Mr. McCormick replied that the representatives from Districts 6 and 7 (the new districts) will be decided in the November, 2016, election, as well as any existing seats that are up for re-election.

Finally, it was reported that there have been some concerns about the change in insurance carriers from Blue Cross to Aetna.

**Director’s Update**

Mr. McCormick presented his overview of FMTC since we last met. One of FMTC’s goals is to enroll more HS students from LAMP/ALC . This past Monday he met with the new Superintendent and Board Member Mary Fisher, among others, to tour the campus and see the programs offered.

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October 2 was the Advisory Board Breakfast, which was a huge success with approximately 200 people in attendance. He made a point of mentioning the Cybersecurity instructor and her advisory board members, who have very impressive credentials.

October 23 was Student Appreciation Day, which is held twice a year. This is a day that FMTC recognizes the students with a barbeque and games. It is a very popular event, and all seemed to enjoy themselves.

The LPN graduation on November 2 saw 11 students leave the program. On September 16, LPN graduated six part-time students. Overall the program is experiencing an upswing.

Mr. McCormick announced that since school started, we have had 78 “Completers”. FMTC has an overall 70% completion rate. This brought about a discussion among the attendees about the advantages of a Technical College education versus a traditional 4-year college program.

Welding is one of the programs that keeps growing for the school. They are retrofitting some classrooms to accommodate the increasing number of students.

We are still trying to get the fabrication lab up and running. They have installed between 7-8 pieces of equipment, some of which are a CNC router, a 3D printer, and a laser cutter. The idea behind this lab is that students can use this as a jump start to building programs. This could eventually lead to a new program in Industrial Technology, which is one of the fields demanded by employers.

With the hiring of a second instructor, Jim Wakeman, Culinary Arts will now be able to focus attention to the needs of the Public Service Academy. Eventually he will be moving to the Academy to run the Culinary program there. They hope to increase the capacity for students, and offer a hot lunch for 100-200.

He also mentioned that the NTHS induction is scheduled for Friday November 20 at 1:30 pm. The chapter has 21 new inductees this year.

The Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce came for a visit and were overwhelmed with the campus. Many left impressed and offered very positive remarks.

Micro Control Systems has hired 8 graduates from FMTC.

He presented the Council with the new brochure, which is a joint publication with our sister school, Cape Coral Tech. He pointed out some new night programs that will start in January, Mold Remediation and Pilot Ground School.

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At the state level involvement, Gov. Scott is still working toward the allocation of \$20 million to the state's tech colleges for "rapid response" to industry demands. Within the next week the state will roll out a press feature, Ready, Set, Work Challenge. The goal of this initiative is that an employer's need will be filled with an employee sufficiently trained to be working from Day 1.

The FMTC placement rate for 2014-15 is 88%, calculated from July 1 – June 30. This percentage reflects the percentage of students employed into the field for which they trained. This brought about a discussion about placement rates and success level, and how they are determined.

The most recent in the series of marketing videos is for the Carpentry program, which was shown to committee members. Employment in Carpentry in Florida is expected to grow by 34 percent in the decade from 2012-2022. Our Carpentry students are achieving great success in the program and are finding good employment opportunities in Lee County. We just need more students! The career videos can be accessed through FMTC web site.

Applied Cybersecurity started November 16 with one student. We are slightly disappointed in the number, but feel that this will grow. The student in the program moved from Kentucky to Ft. Myers to take this class. The requirements for the program are Basic TABE scores and a simple background check. A discussion ensued about how best to promote the program. One thought was to make the next video about Applied Cybersecurity.

**Dr. Brian Byrnes, Ass't. Director, Curriculum**

Career Dual Enrollment has a goal of 50 students by 2020. During the next Assistant Principals meeting, he will be speaking with them to talk about dual enrollment opportunities at the two technical colleges. Meetings with school counselors and with principals will follow soon behind. We have asked each high school to work with their counselors to designate a specific contact for the technical colleges. That will be an on-going process.

Completion, Placement, and Licensure for the 2014-15 school year are 72%, 88% and 100% respectively. Again this puts FMTC above the standard that Technical Colleges are required to reach. Tyler asked about "soft skills" and students. He was reassured that all programs offered have "soft skills" embedded in the course.

He attended COE's (Council on Occupational Education) national meeting. In two (2) years FMTC will come due for re-certification; therefore in the next year the school will begin taking the initial steps required for the review.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> FMTC hosted a career fair, organized by the new career specialist Michele Witlin. It was a huge success. There were 20 different employers available to interview and contact students. A firm from Baltimore attended with the specific purpose of recruiting students from the TGM class.

There will be a holiday get-together Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 for Staff. SAC members are welcome to attend.

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**Good of the Order:**

The annual NTHS poinsettia sale is underway. You received an order form in your information packet.

Sandy Shimp, financial aid administrator, spoke about the federal guidelines that now restrict loans to 150% of the total program costs. There is also a program in place to track the students and the amount of their loans. Cyber Security is not eligible for the Pell Grant, yet.

Tyler wanted to know if there were any noticeable effects from the name change. Suzan says that the LPN and computer classes have seen an increase in the type of student who could be considered a more traditional college student. In November the Nursing Department accepted 22 new LPN students. She also mentioned that there seemed to be more interest in our programs by foreign students.

Lee Memorial Health Systems, FutureMakers, CareerSource SWFL, and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation are all collaborating to develop resources to train the nearly-100 CNAs LMHS needs to hire. The training will be done at CCTC and FMTC.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07, and those interested took a tour of the Electronics Lab

Submitted by,

Suzan Harden, SAC Chair