

**Fort Myers Technical College  
School Advisory Council  
Minutes of September 23, 2015 Meeting**

Present: Dr. Dante Ciolfi, Peg Elmore, Dianne Fabii (new FMTC staff member), Janice Gentile (student rep), Nona Gronau, Suzan Harden, Dr. Lemuel Lawrence, Tessa LeSage, William McCormick, Tyler Patak, Ron Pentiuk, Dr. Dangbe Sua.

Guests: Dr. Brian Byrnes; George McDaniel

**Welcome/Approval of Minutes - Suzan Harden, Chairperson**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m. The minutes from the April 22 meeting were approved as presented.

**DAC Update – Dr. Dante Ciolfi**

Dr. Ciolfi reported that Dr. Jim Short presented about the 1 to 1 Chromebook learning initiative from middle school to high school. Some parents were worried about liability and damage that could be associated with students being able to take the computers home and who would be responsible for that.

DAC website: <http://www.leeschools.net/board/committees/dac/>

**FMTC Update – Mr. McCormick**

- We officially became FMTC early in the summer. He distributed a handout on the Legislative Platform for 2016-2017 explaining where the Florida Public Technical College/Center system is headed. There are now 28 (out of 48) institutions that have “College” in their school title. This seems to be a statewide industry trend. FACTE leadership is also looking to make it easier to transition from these institutions to a state college. They are working with the House Education Committee staff to sponsor legislation to smooth that process.
- One of the top priorities for the next session is to allow technical colleges/centers to award college credit certificates in cooperation with the State Colleges. More about this will be coming throughout this year.
- The \$20 million Rapid Response Grant Initiative will be proposed by Governor Scott again next session. FACTE leadership is looking for a sponsor in the Florida House to re-introduce the bill. The FMTC share of these monies would be approximately \$90,000. Mr. McDaniel explained that we would use the funds to upgrade facilities and purchase equipment. One example is Applied Welding, where we have added a second teacher and are looking to develop an additional lab.
- Mr. McCormick congratulated our SkillsUSA winners. Alex Hernandez, Carpentry, won a national bronze medal. Alex has since graduated and is now employed full time by Riley Corporation.
- The SkillsUSA Chapter Display won the gold medal in the state skill competition but the team was unable to attend the national competition.
- SUNSPRA announced their annual Sunshine Medallion Awards. FMTC’s school newspaper, Soaring Scene, received 1<sup>st</sup> place.

### **FMTC Update (Cont'd.)**

- The 2015 graduation took place at Fort Myers High School. The auditorium was filled as 110 graduates walked the stage. Thirty-five faculty members were in attendance.
- Mr. McCormick announced that Dr. Greg Adkins, a long-time employee of the district, has been offered a three-year contract to be the new superintendent of the School District of Lee County.
- He announced other personnel changes as well. Brian Mangan is the new director of Cape Coral Technical College. He is a long-time administrator with LCSD. Ms. Rita Effing is the new director for Adult and Career Education for LCSD. She most recently worked in Accountability.
- Mr. McCormick announced that Jon Clute, long-time faculty member at FMTC passed away just before school started. He will be missed.
- All in all, FMTC has 10 new staff members:  
Nikhola, Carrillo, Auto Collision Repair & Refinishing  
Dianne Fabii, School Counselor  
Janice Fischer, Cosmetology  
Anita Lamoureux, ADAS/MAS  
Michael Landrum, Welding  
Dr. Renee Rawe, Applied Cybersecurity  
Eric Seuffert, TGM  
Sandy Shimp, Financial Aid  
Jim Wakeman, Culinary Arts  
Michele Witlin, Career Specialist
- The new Applied Cybersecurity program will begin in mid-November. We are still recruiting students and would love to have a full class.
- There will be an Advisory Committee Breakfast on Friday, October 2, at 7 a.m. You are all invited to attend, though it is not part of your official responsibilities.

### **Marketing Update – Dr. Brian Byrnes**

- FMTC and Cape Coral Tech are teaming to increase visibility in the area and recruitment of students through local media, print and television campaigns.
- The Spring, 2016, catalog of classes is being prepared.
- It was suggested that we look at the local Dunbar radio station for open spots for advertisement.
- Tessa LeSage suggested that FMTC target small business owners and tell them of the benefits they might receive from our school and explore offering periodic night classes that customize training programs to meet the needs of those employers. She mentioned that the Lee County FutureMakers meeting will be held October 6. She hopes to create a regional committee to further develop business-community relations.

**Curriculum Update – Dr. Brian Byrnes**

- FMTC would like to partner with FSW to offer college career certificate classes. A representative of FSW is coming to speak with our students about possible offerings in such areas as entrepreneurship.
- We will have an enrollment period from October 7 to October 16 to encourage enrollment in some hard-to-fill programs.

**Facilities Update – George McDaniel**

- Substantial cleaning and renovation was done over the summer. The Major Appliance Repair program got a much-needed makeover with new flooring. Electronic Technology was upgraded with new work stations. Auto Service Tech is now considered industry-standard. Both semesters of Cosmetology have been consolidated into one space where the second semester class had been. Both students and staff seem to like the new arrangement.
- Upcoming plans are to move Web Applications from Building G to Building A so it is in the same building with Applied Cybersecurity. We are also considering moving Drafting to the Electronics area to have it closer to the Fab Lab.
- The school district has installed a new computer system for data management called FOCUS. This was part of a legislative initiative, and DOE came up with the money to implement it. The new system went live June 8. It is a work in progress as they make modifications that will fit the needs of a clock-hour school.
- The idea of having a technical college campus in the southern part of the county is still in the talking stages. Ron Andersen mentioned that he has seen technical schools utilize vacant strip malls to curtail the costs involved with original construction.

**Strategic Plan Update – George McDaniel**

- RE: Objective 1 – Improving Program Full Completer Rate. Our current goal is to have a full completer rate of 60 percent. We are looking at increasing that to 65 percent by the end of this Strategic Plan (2020), looking at increments each year.

No one had anything for the good of the order.

**Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 7:30 a.m. H-7.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55. Thank you for attending!

Submitted by,

Suzan Harden, Chairperson

Janice Gentile, Recorder