

**Motion:** Kevin Freestone made a motion, seconded by Roger Dunham, to direct the administration to improve the applied curriculum to better meet the needs of the employers in the area for jobs paying greater than \$9.00/hour. This would include a report on the needs of those employers. Administration will provide data-driven input on whether this would apply to only Career Center students or if there should be improvements to the so-called applied curriculum.

**Response:** The response to this motion is based on the following points of inquiry:

- I. The Warren County Career Center counselor was asked to identify the top five (5) technical/community colleges attended by the Warren County Career Center students graduating from 2003 through 2005.
- II. List the top fields of study of the graduates of the Warren County Career Center, years 2003 through 2005.
- III. Contact three different technical schools/colleges and ascertain the following information:
  - A. Criteria that the institution of higher education uses to evaluate potential students of their institutions.
  - B. Ask them to comment on their impressions of how well prepared the applicants are who apply from the Warren County School District, capturing direct quotes if possible.
- IV. Contact four (4) or five (5) local employers through their Human Resource office and ask your contact to give you a general statement evaluating the quality of recent graduates from the Warren County Career Center that they have interviewed or recently employed. Use direct quotes whenever possible.
- V. Review of the School Year 2003-2004 and School Year 2004-2005 PSSA results for students who were enrolled in the District Grade 11 applied/technical courses.

## Findings

- I. Top five (5) technical/community colleges attended by Warren County Career Center students graduating from 2003 through 2005
  - A. Jamestown Community College
  - B. Pennsylvania College of Technology
  - C. Erie Business Center
  - D. Mercyhurst Northeast  
Pittsburgh Technical Institute
  - E. Northwestern Ohio University (Lima, OH)
  
- II. Top five (5) fields of study of graduates of the Warren County Career Center, years 2003 through 2005
  - A. Engineering Technologies
  - B. Food Service (Management and Culinary Arts)
  - C. Business, Marketing and Management
  - D. Electronics  
Cosmetology
  - E. Criminal Justice
  
- III. Major employers of graduates of the Warren County Career Center, years 2003 through 2005
  - A. Betts Industries
  - B. Blair
  - C. K-Mart
  - D. United Refinery
  - E. Cummins Engine
  - F. Superior Tire
  - G. Elwood National Forge
  - H. Quality/BiLo Markets
  - I. Northwest Savings/WACOPSE

### Criteria used by Colleges/Centers to Evaluate Candidates' Applications

	GPA	Placement Test Score	Academic Rigor	Diploma or G.E.D.	Recommen- dation	Interviewer – High School	Notes on Criteria
DuBois Business College	X	X	X	X	X	J. Bonavita	Academic Rigor – Review of candidate's individual program. Additional weight is given to the Placement Test score.
Erie Buisness Center						J. Bonavita	Criteria weight was not shared by Center personnel.
Pennsylvania College of Technology	X	X	X	X	X	J. Bonavita	No comments.

## Evaluation of Warren County School District Career/Technology or Applied Curriculum.

Betts Industries	"Graduates are hired through recommendations and aptitude testing. The Career Center graduates are qualified and working to our expectations."
DuBois Business College	Did not respond.
Elwood National Forge	"We have a half dozen or so recent graduates. They are qualified and are performing to our expectations."
Erie Business Center	The Warren County group performs as expected as post-secondary students.
Pennsylvania College of Technology	The latest data completed is from the fall of 2003. Students from Warren County had a cumulative average of 2.4 on a 4.0 scale. The students from the Career Center had a cumulative average of 2.7. These averages are for the first semester of Freshman students.

## Review of School Year 2003-2004 and School Year 2004-2005 PSSA results for students who were enrolled in District Grade 11 Occupational/Career or Applied curriculum.

### I. Overall District Reading Results for School Years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
Reading	33%	37%	16.5%	13.5%

#### A. PSSA results for English 11 (Occupational/Career or Applied) classes

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
English 11 (Occupational/Career) (154 students)	8.6%	39.5%	31%	20.5%

#### B. PSSA Math results for Occupational/Career or Applied classes

	Advanced	Proficient	Basic	Below Basic
Applied Geometry (117 students)	2%	17%	39%	41%
Applied Algebra I B (27 students)	0%	22.5%	32%	45%

### **Constraints of this Inquiry and the Future: Community Education Needs Assessment.**

Due to time limitations, the contacts in this inquiry were not based on any scientific or sampling plan, but were made because of the immediate availability of the interviewers and interviewees. Although desirable, no contacts were made with the graduates or the parents of the Graduating Classes of 2003, 2004, or 2005 to seek their input. No contact was made with the faculty members of the students from those classes.

The Warren/Forest Higher Education Council has an interest in expanding its program beyond existing programs to include more workforce development programs in technical and career areas. To that end, the Council's Education Provider Advisory Committee has identified two (2) major areas in their quest for a comprehensive community needs assessment:

- Economic and Workforce Development (Employer Needs)
- Assessment of Individual Learner Needs

The Warren County School District is a participant and within the next two (2) weeks, interviewers from Penn State will be meeting with students from our high schools and the Warren County Career Center to document their needs and perceptions through focus group interviews.

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