

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 8, 2011 from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Calhoun ISD

Education Advisory Group

September 15, 2011

8:30 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.

Calhoun ISD

Meeting Minutes

Members and Alternates Present: Mike Hoffner, EAG Chair/Branch Area Careers Center; Craig Artist, Branch Local District Representative/Quincy; LeeAnne Nagel, Branch Area Career Center/Academic Representative; Cindy Smith, Branch Parent Advisor; Rob Ridgeway, Calhoun Local District Representative/Quincy; Kris Jenkins, Calhoun ISD; Robbin Coddens, Calhoun Parent Representative; Cathy Hendler, KCC/Post-Secondary Institution; Al Miller, WDB/Education Representative; Tracy Richer, Non-WDB Employer; Kathy Ragla, WDB Member; Michele Streets, Non-WDB Employer;

Guests/Presenters: Lisa Larson, WIA Youth, Calhoun ISD

Welcome and Introductions: With this being the first meeting of the new school year and having new members present, Mike welcomed everyone and asked that introductions be made. He also congratulated Kathy Ragla on the “Employer of the Year” award that Kellogg Company received from the Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth.

EAG Vice Chair: Mike asked if anyone would volunteer to be Vice Chair of the EAG in the event that he is unable to attend a meeting. Al Miller graciously volunteered to take on that position.

Minutes: The March 30, 2011 EAG meeting minutes were approved as printed.

* All handouts except the WIA Youth report were electronically e-mailed prior to the meeting

Review Purpose of EAG:

Kris reviewed the purpose of the EAG committee, EAG policies and procedures, membership, meetings, attendance, and member’s responsibilities. She showed a PowerPoint on how the WDB, EAG and CDC committees are structured and what they do. It was asked if this could be sent out electronically to members and we will add it to the e-mail with the completed minutes.

Mike also mentioned that he is now a member of the Workforce Development Board and told members that the information discussed at EAG meetings will filter up to that committee. Mike and Kris both attend Workforce development meetings and bring the EAG information to them

- 2011-2012 meeting dates were handed out

Civil Rights Compliance Review Survey

From time to time, the Office of Civil Rights does an audit of buildings. This year, CACC is being audited. There are three portions to an audit:

1. An on-site visit
2. Everyone has to take a survey (students, staff, educators, committee members, business partners, the school boards, etc.). Each group will have a different survey targeted to them.
3. A documentation review with committee members

In order for members to see what was involved, and also because this will aid in completing the survey portion, Kris had all Calhoun EAG members take the survey, Branch and Barry members paired up with Calhoun participants so they could see what the survey is like. Mike has had about 3 visits at BACC in the past and they have had to make even physical changes to the

building as a result of an audit. The website for the survey is:
<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CJE5G52SF/>

Kris noted that by law, they have to publish their grievance policy. It was mentioned that they are lucky to have a set date for the audit. In business, the Office of Civil Rights just shows up without warning.

Workforce Development Board Information/WIA Youth- Lisa Larson

Lisa gave an overview of the WIA Youth Program to new members. She explained what the program is and what it does for student participants. WIA Youth serve in-school and out-of-school participants and will follow up for 20 months after the student exits the program. Lisa then went through the report step-by-step.

Other highlights of her report:

- Enrollment: WIA is overenrolled in every county
- Branch County has had dramatic change over the last 3 years with increased enrollment
- Both Branch and Calhoun counties have had new contractors assigned. Kris and Mike had them come in to CDC/EDP meeting last year so counselors and educators could become familiar with the programs and the new district contacts.
- This past June, a Career day was held for all 3 Counties. They brought in nationally known speakers and the day went great and was well attended.

A full copy of the report will be e-mailed out with the minutes.

Updates:

- CTE Exit Surveys: Mike mentioned that they have been doing these surveys for quite a few years now. It helps them make decisions on how to better meet their students' needs. Students are taken to the computer lab where they take a Zoomerang survey. CACC also does the survey with their students. Both Mike and Kris showed results of the surveys to the committee.
 - Lee Anne mentioned that the Merit Exam will be changing the in the year 2013-14. WorkKeys may no longer be part of the exam.
- Kris handed out an article "Top Ten Jobs Employers Can't Fill in 2011"
 - Michigan still has high unemployment among workers, but employers are saying they can't find the skilled workers. There is a definite disconnect.

Branch, Calhoun and Barry Updates:

- Areas of Program Development: CACC has a new program called the 9th Grade CTE Academy. This program targets at-risk 9th grade students in an attempt to increase their graduation rate. They have a really good teacher and students will get an elective CTE Credit; ½ PE and ½ Health credit and a 9th grade ELA credit. They now have 13 enrolled in the morning session and 15 in the afternoon session.

The biggest challenge is to make sure students are properly placed. Robbin mentioned that because this is a new program and counselors need to learn more about it, they may not have placed as many students this year. She sees the numbers of students in the program growing in the future.

- Last year the EAG approved the Aviation Program at CACC and the numbers are not good. We have a great partnership between CACC, Western Michigan College of Aviation and KCC, but cannot seem to get kids from Calhoun County to go into aviation at WMU.

- Mike: BACC is running a new Algebra II program for a ½ credit. They are identifying power standards and work with kids by giving Algebra lessons in a different manner so they can make sense of them. They have about 15 students in each section – am and pm.
 - Kathy Ragla: As an employer, kids need a high school diploma and Algebra II is a requirement for graduation to get a diploma.

Employer Updates

Tracy Richer: Before attending this meeting, I did not know a lot about centers. How can we bring some of the same life essential skills to kids that don't attend centers?

- Robbin: Marshall does teach a careers/business class.
- Tracy thinks that there are business people in the community that would be willing to come to schools to teach a session. How do we connect those people to educators?
- Michelle (PNC Bank of Coldwater) mentioned that she would be happy to come to some of the schools and give them a lesson of what they look for when hiring and some of the skills students may need.

Minutes were compiled by Brita Blue