

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee  
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

Thursday, November 11, 2021  
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

520 Fifth Avenue  
School District Administrative Center  
Meeting By Zoom

**MEETING NOTES**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. CTE Director, Joni Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the FNSBSD Administrative Center, 520 Fifth Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701. The meeting took place by Zoom.

**Committee Members Present:**

Joni Simpson, CTE Director  
Matthew Sampson, School Board Representative  
Melissa Sawchuk, FEA Representative  
Dawn Murphy, Explore Fairbanks

Andrea Gelvin, Gelvin Professional Training  
Karen Lapp, Foundation Health  
Keith Swarner, UAF/CTC Faculty

**Committee Members Absent:**

Robyn Taylor, FPA Representative  
Annie Baker, ESSA Representative  
Tifani Hollcraft, Student Representative NPH  
Jim Dodson, Fairbanks Economic Dev. Corp.

Missy Lizotte, Department of Labor  
Cathy Winfree, UAF/CTC Representative  
Rodney Wolcott, Plumbers & Pipefitter  
Local 375

**Invited Guests Present:**

Audra Forsman, Counseling Technician NPH  
Peter Daley, CTE Teacher HUT

Laurie Trotta, Migrant Education Program  
Director

**Staff Present:**

Julie Luddington, CTE Technician

**A. Meeting Discussion**

1. Joni spoke about the value of CTE, and the need to make our community stronger by keeping our students in Alaska's workforce.
2. Melissa Sawchuk shared information about the Foundation Health summer internship program. Several of our district high school students participated and gave excellent feedback regarding the program.

3. Karen Lapp added the program had an average of 20 students who interned for over 1600 hours. All areas of healthcare were involved, including IT, Lab, Radiology.

## **B. Power Point Presentation**

Joni shared a Powerpoint Presentation which covered the highlights and outcomes that the CTE program achieved over the 2020-2021 school year, and through the summer. Information regarding new grant projects was also included.

## **C. Meeting Discussion Continued**

4. Keith Swarner spoke regarding the Tech Prep partnership program between the district and UAF/CTC. He shared information regarding the high school teacher approval process, and gave recognition to what a fantastic program this is for both the district and CTC.
5. Audra Forsman asked about the decision to change the Introduction to Trades classes to after the end of the school year. Her concern is that some students might be left out due to summer travel plans or jobs.
  - I. Joni stated that some of the unions, such as the Laborers and Heavy Equipment Operators were able to do more with the students in the summer, due to the majority of their actual work taking place outside. They felt that they were able to teach more in an eight-hour day for two weeks than for two days a week for a whole semester.
  - II. Pete Daley shared that the Plumbers and Pipefitters prefer the semester-long class so they can assess the students on their work ethic and performance over a longer period of time.
  - III. Joni shared that the Pipeline Training Center Director will be retiring in January, and we will revisit the Intro to Trades schedule with the new director. It is possible that we may hold classes at different times depending on the preferences of each union.
6. Dawn Murphy shared her excitement regarding getting back to work with the district and CTC. The hospitality industry was hit hard due to Covid-19. She informed the group of the Alaska Travel Industry Foundation Scholarship which is open for applications until January. There is a high need for all jobs in the aviation field as well as the Arts, AV industry. The scholarships are between \$20,000.00 and \$25,000.00. They hope to have more applicants to fill positions here in the Fairbanks area.
  - I. Explore Fairbanks will also be holding its Job Fair in January. There is a great need for managers and employees in all areas of the hospitality industry.
  - II. They are also very interested in starting an internship partnership with the district.

7. Matthew Sampson asked about the Aviation program. How would this be funded and is it a sustainable program?
  - I. Joni shared that CTE has applied for an Aviation grant of \$436,000.00. If we receive the grant, we could create two programs of twenty students each. The grant would pay for the curriculum (AOPA curriculum), simulators, and pay two instructors salaries for two years. The district would then need to find a way to keep the instructors after the two-year period. The biggest challenge will be finding teachers.
  - II. Keith Swarner told about the CTC Aviation Helper class that familiarizes students with aviation basic needs so they can work in an aviation shop. They are hoping to get other classes certified and create a track into aviation careers beginning with the district classes and leading into classes at CTC.
8. Andrea Gelvin shared a wonderful opportunity in the aviation community. The AOPA High School Aviation Symposium will be held virtually next Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration is free. The information provided during the symposium will be regarding the workforce needs in the rapidly growing aviation field. <https://youcanfly.aopa.org/high-school/symposium>
9. Melissa Sawchuk is holding a Healthcare Leadership Team meeting in the next couple of weeks. She is looking forward to sharing information and learning from other people on the team.
10. Karen Lapp told about the Foundation Health CNA class they are holding. There is one in session right now and they will be holding other classes in December and January. They also hope to hold another next summer to capture high school students who may have missed the classes that CTE and CTC run during the school year. There are eight students per class and it is an intensive month-long class.
  - I. Karen also gave a shout-out to the partnership between Foundation Health and West Valley high school healthcare students who are working at Foundation Health alongside their teacher, Melissa Sawchuk.
11. Andrea Gelvin gave a shout-out to the Hospitality and Healthcare industries which are both hurting for employees.
  - I. Andrea also shared the need for Wildland Firefighters. The Redcare certification class is held during the spring. The minimum age to become a firefighter is 18. People are coming up from the lower 48 who want to become Wildland Firefighters in Alaska. We need to recruit our local students. The job offers excellent training and equipment.
12. Joni shared the great need for law enforcement and educators in our community. We hope to start a law enforcement pathway in the future. Joni is working with Educators Rising to begin an education pathway.

**D. Adjournment** Joni closed the meeting at 6:20 pm.