

Local Advisory Committee Minutes
Pequea Valley School District
3/13/24

Agenda Item 1: The Pequea Valley School District Mission Statement Overview

- **But also... getting each learner to their “First Choice”**
- **Mentoring Program**
- **Work-Based Learning Opportunities**
- **Changes for Junior Year**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. John Trovato at 6:02 PM. An overview of the school mission statement was presented as a reminder. A summary of the First Choice initiative was also provided.

Trovato summarized new methods of educating learners at Pequea Valley such as college in the classroom, dual enrollment, internships, work study, CORE, and 11th grade mentoring.

Brad Wenger shared his experience and benefit of dual enrollment when he attended high school, and reinforced the value of these experiences for financial and educational reasons.

Trovato shared hurdles of the 11th grade schedules where learners have multiple free periods in their day because of the 24 credit requirement. Based on feedback from prior LAC meetings, 11th grade learners will now be encouraged to take a full 7 credits.

Agenda Item 2: New Construction Update

Mr. Trovato provided an overview of the new building, Pequea Valley Secondary School. The project is 56% complete with substantial completion by December 2024. A 3D rendering video was shared to provide a visual of the new space.

Dr. Erik Orndorff shared that 67% of learners enter the workforce so the new school was designed to focus on building skills in these hands-on skills.

Trovato shared that enrollment continues to be strong in the Agriculture CTE program. The new space will provide the opportunities for these programs to expand.

Agenda Item 3: Area Businesses

- **Future needs?**
- **Any new companies moving into the area?**
- **What are you seeing?**
- **How can the district better support local employers?**
- **Are there specific fields we can better support?**

Mr. Trovato opened the floor for input on these questions to better serve the CTE support. He shared the average employee is expected to change jobs every 2.8 years so.

Brad Wenger asked about coding and app development. Mr. Eby shared that coding is incorporated in elementary and Tech Ed. Wenger shared that electrical, code-based service support is needed and the industry is changing rapidly. Reuben Dise shared that AI will impact jobs and the industry, especially in the area of articles and technical writing.

Wenger shared that Raven and New Holland Ag officers a small unit that can be used in the high school setting and encouraged the Ag program to pursue this curriculum. Focus is diagnosis and troubleshooting; not on the actual fixing of items.

Dean Stoltzfus shared that his company is reevaluating how to get the right people with salaries but keep demanding productivity and be more efficient with less staff. Doing more with less. Pay more now. Turnover was higher a few years ago but recently has been better.

Wenger added that CNH is incorporating more efficient technology use. Technology helps to bridge the gap between employees. Skills are trained on ipad and then they can be used. Trovato shared that a building goal is resiliency to address some of the concerns brought up in the past about employees giving up when issues arise.

Trovato updated on the new financial literacy requirements. It is scaffolded in 9th and 10th grade courses. This came out of feedback from local businesses.

What are these items included in financial literacy? These were suggestions:

- Budgeting and saving for crisis situations
- Check writing
- Credit card, debit card
- Add balance sheets and financial statements

Agenda Item 4: 24-25 Course Selection Guide

- **Discussion of current offerings**
- **Financial Literacy Follow-up**
- **Suggestions of areas needed**
- **Overall feedback**
- **How can our courses better support our CTE programs?**

Question from the attendees-Why is enrollment so high in Ag CTE?

- Name changes
- Instructor talent
- Opportunities for learners to get involved in work-based learning
- Hands-on curriculum
- Certifications

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.