1/4/09 PETAC Minutes

PRESENT:
Kim Runion, Bob Henry, Greg Donald, Kevin Shyne, Val Zanchuck, Michele Munson, Dan Caron, Judy Houston

MINUTES/TECHNOLOGY LANGUAGE AMENDMENTS:
Relative to draft language for the Tech. Ed. Standards, Bob suggested that competency language regarding “Engineering Principles and Design” is redundant as those competencies are imbedded in the other content/skills. As a remedy, Bob will send out draft language clarifying the issue with the understanding that:

- Many teachers may be assessing these competencies but not know it.
- Everyone, regardless of profession, NEEDS tech awareness.

When you receive Bob’s draft, please send suggested revisions to Bob & Michele ASAP. She would like the final draft for Paul Leather @ the March 4th PETAC meeting. Dan will then need to get it in the hands of Tech Ed teachers when finalized. Many thanks are due Dan and all who put the work into this.

Further discussion left us with these questions:

- Has Tech Ed become so academic that it no longer has the “different feel” that it once had for kids?
- Do kids still see it as an enjoyable part of the day where they got to apply what they know? *(God, do we miss the good old days!)*

1st IN ALL SCHOOLS:

The Governor is promoting this as *1st in all NH high schools*. Lots of discussion ensued on logistics relative to the roughly $25,000 cost, the availability of mentors and of industries to support the schools in certain areas of the state. PLTW opted not to partner with 1st because it was episodic and not curriculum based. Bob felt it would make more sense to do it state wide in way that parallels athletic conferences and that the idea behind 1st is a great concept; let’s *(make it NH)*. Point was made that there are other models that we may want to identify for the Governor.

KEVIN’S REPORT: (See attachment above.)

Page #1
NOTES:

- Kim shared that the State will be doing middle school training to help teachers guide students to career awareness.
- Bob let us know of a developing partnership between Great Bay C.C. & UNH geared toward kids interested in engineering, who have good math skills, but haven’t taken enough math to be successful @ the university.
- Next meeting is March 4th, @ 8:30 @ the Walker Building. (A decision was made not to change the meeting time.)
- Norm Major has been reappointed as our legislative rep.
- TSA meetings are the last Thursday of the month and Dan says they are always looking for judges.
- UNH Summer Tech Camp will be for two weeks: Week #1 is five one-day sessions on a variety of topics for campers with limited experience. Week #2 will have campers focus on one topic and is for those with pre-engineering or technology experience. Cost will be in the $350 range for day campers and another $350 for boarders. They are looking for corporate sponsors. Brochure is coming soon.
2/4/09 PETAC Minutes

PRESENT:
Kim Runion, Bob Henry, Greg Donald, Kevin Shyne, Val Zanchuck,
Michele Munson, Dan Caron, Judy Houston

MINUTES/TECHNOLOGY LANGUAGE AMENDMENTS:
Relative to draft language for the Tech. Ed. Standards, Bob suggested that
competency language regarding “Engineering Principles and Design” is
redundant as those competencies are imbedded in the other content/skills. As
a remedy, Bob will send out draft language clarifying the issue with the
understanding that:
• Many teachers may be assessing these competencies but not know it.
• Everyone, regardless of profession, NEEDS tech awareness.
When you receive Bob’s draft, please send suggested revisions to Bob &
Michele ASAP. She would like the final draft for Paul Leather @ the March
4th PETAC meeting. Dan will then need to get it in the hands of Tech Ed
teachers when finalized. Many thanks are due Dan and all who put the work
into this.
Further discussion left us with these questions:
• Has Tech Ed become so academic that it no longer has the “different
feel” that it once had for kids?
• Do kids still see it as an enjoyable part of the day where they got to
apply what they know? (God, do we miss the good old days!)

1st IN ALL SCHOOLS:

The Governor is promoting this as 1st in all NH high schools. Lots of
discussion ensued on logistics relative to the roughly $25,000 cost, the
availability of mentors and of industries to support the schools in certain
areas of the state. PLTW opted not to partner with 1st because it was episodic
and not curriculum based. Bob felt it would make more sense to do it state
wide in way that parallels athletic conferences and that the idea behind 1st is
a great concept; let’s “make it NH”. Point was made that there are other
models that we may want to identify for the Governor.

KEVIN’S REPORT: (See attachment above.)
NOTES:

- Kim shared that the State will be doing middle school training to help teachers guide students to career awareness.
- Bob let us know of a developing partnership between Great Bay C.C. & UNH geared toward kids interested in engineering, who have good math skills, but haven’t taken enough math to be successful @ the university.
- Next meeting is March 4th, @ 8:30 @ the Walker Building. (A decision was made not to change the meeting time.)
- Norm Major has been reappointed as our legislative rep.
- TSA meetings are the last Thursday of the month and Dan says they are always looking for judges.
- UNH Summer Tech Camp will be for two weeks: Week #1 is five one-day sessions on a variety of topics for campers with limited experience. Week #2 will have campers focus on one topic and is for those with pre-engineering or technology experience. Cost will be in the $350 range for day campers and another $350 for boarders. They are looking for corporate sponsors. Brochure is coming soon.
Gene Blanc of Bedford presented what was described as a more rigorous PLTW-like program that he has developed @ Bedford High School (BHS) for the purpose of approval by PETAC. Pre-engineering courses offered at BHS are Intro to Eng. & Design, Principals of Eng. & Eng. Design & Development (which dovetails nicely w/ BHS senior project). Each is competency based w/ corresponding rubrics. He hopes to get the 3 courses approved for matching funding.

Minutes from previous meeting: Motion by Bob H. /2nd by Dan C. /Approved.

Tech Ed Revisions: Suggestions will be presented for consideration. The final product will have gone through an exhaustive rules making process before becoming legislation. These standards will help establish rules for post-secondary program approval and for teacher certification.

Kevin’s Report: See attached.

Note: Michele wondered how interest @ the state level ror merging state departments would affect PETAC? Kim shared that there is some interest in merging Dept of Ed w/ HHS, and that there was sentiment @ the state level to place a sunset clause on standing committees such as ours and then re-evaluate their effectiveness. This, in fact, may impact us.

Robotics Discussion: Gov. Lynch has made a statement that he wants FIRST in all NH high schools. It was clear that the aide had some confusion about how funding decisions at the local level are made and how this process might affect local funding of FIRST. Other worthy programs besides FIRST were discussed. Bob inserted that Dean Kamen’s vision of what’s feasible isn’t ours. Our dilemma: How do we make it clear that our vision isn’t Dean K’s? The up-side is that the Governor is making statements that are supportive of technology in schools.

Other: Time being a factor for BHS accessing matching state funds; Val motioned to accept Gene Blanc's explanation of BHS's pre-engineering curriculum for approval. Bob seconded. Approval was unanimous.
March PETAC Report

1. Met with Kevin Briere Tech Ed Teacher and Courtney Vashaw, Asst Principal from Profile Middle / High School. They are interested in implementing EbD in both schools, and were looking for information and curriculum samples. They made a presentation to their school board on Thursday 2 - 19. I am awaiting the results of that meeting.

2. Had a request for information about EbD and a discussion with Tom Duda, Technology teacher at Plymouth High School. He wants to learn more about the curriculum, and see if it is something that they want to use. I sent him the basic introductory package, and will follow up with a visit.

3. Met several times with Lori Lane CTE Director at SAU 36. The discussions focused on implementing the EbD curriculum in conjunction with their existing PreEngineering Program. Also met with Lori and Alan Pike their Technology Teacher to develop the State Matching funds grant for $50K. The grant will be submitted by the end of the month.

4. The next EbD Training Sessions will be held, March 11 at TEC in Concord from 4-8 and the second session, March 14 in Plymouth from 9-4. Once again, these sessions will be for Middle Schools. Training for High School EbD Curriculum will be held later on in the spring or summer. More information to follow, once we have these scheduled.

5. Had a great discussion with Brenda Quinn from Intellitek in Manchester. They supply a variety of components and controls to industry. They also have developed robotics curriculum and training materials for Robotics Competitions, Manufacturing, and a variety of Educational Applications. Our discussion centered on their support of Preengineering Programs, as well as Robotics Competitions.

6. I have had several discussions with the folks at PSNH about PreEngineering Programs in the state. I will have another meeting with them sometime this month, to talk more about PLTW and EbD.

7. I attended the First Student Robotics Competition, “LUNACY” held at the Verizon Center in Manchester on Feb 26 – 28. 47 total teams were entered in this regional competition, 25 of them were from NH. (See List)

8. I will be attending the 71st ITEA Conference March 24 – 28 in Louisville KY. There will be several training sessions for EbD as well as hundreds of other Technology Exhibits, and workshops on a variety of Technology Education subjects.