

Workforce Implementation Team Minutes
June 14, 2007

Present: Clay Gilbert, Dan Hunter, Lynn Johns, Red Petrovs, Tom Gausvik, Sonuel Devlin, Flora Tydings, Bart Freeman, Carol Rayburn, Doug Bolen, James Deaton, Becky Lane, Judy James, Staff: Jim Geiser

Clay opened the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves. The minutes from the May 8 meeting were approved.

Clay gave an update on progress that had been made since the last meeting. He asked Jim to go over the "Summary" handout that had been provided which provided a summary of the information he had collected from team members since the last meeting.

Clay also mentioned that since our last meeting a group had met with the Lt. Governor to share their interest in Clarke County pursuing a career academy. A letter of support has been signed by Athens Tech President Flora Tydings, PPA Chairman Steve Jones, School Superintendent Lewis Holloway, State Senator Tommy Cowsert, and Athens Area Chamber of Commerce President Doc Eldridge.

It was mentioned that since our last meeting the school superintendent has endorsed the school.

Handouts were given related to the process for developing a career academy as well as some key dates.

A major criteria to receive the career academy funding is that there is a strong collaborative among local employers, the school system, the technical college, and the community.

It was mentioned that Life Sciences would probably be a focus of the career academy in Athens.

It was suggested that the group explore how the governance models of the PLC and Technical Career Academy might possibly be used.

A request was made to find out definitively whether or not a charter school was necessary in order to receive the DTAE funding.

The group voted that they would support the Career Academy that was being developed in Clarke County. They agreed to serve as the charter school governing board if the charter school model is pursued.

It was suggested that a conversation with School Board members occur as soon as possible.

It was mentioned that additional members could be added to this group. An immediate suggestion was to ask the newly appointed Superintendent, Jim Simms. It was also suggested to contact Lisa David with SHRM to perhaps get a representative from their group.

It was also suggested that Maxine Easom and Tommy Craft from the two high schools be contacted and to get their input. It was also suggested that someone meet with PTA representatives.

It was mentioned that Oconee County might also be interested in participating in this school.

It was suggested that a Proposal Writing/Curriculum group be developed to begin putting together a plan. Lynn, Dan, Dan, Jim, James, and Doug agreed to serve on this committee.

It was mentioned that a feasibility study and ongoing needs assessment process would be an important component of our proposal. Dr. Tydings indicated that they had a study, but it needed to be updated. It was suggested that UGA might be able to donate the work to do this needs assessment. Tom Gausvik agreed to work with Dan to follow-up on this.

Some specific follow-up includes:

1. Meet with the School Board to discuss this plan (Red)
2. Follow-up with the feasibility (needs assessment) study.
3. Write the Letter of Intent (Lynn and Jim)
4. Follow-up to make sure a charter school is needed.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 9 at 2:00 at the Department of Labor.

Comments were then open from the audience. Don Shellnut expressed disappointment that the school was not targeting students most in need.