

WELLSBORO AGRI-SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

GRAND CANYON FFA

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Wellsboro Agriscience Program Advisory Committee Meeting **Agenda**

March 13, 2023 7:00 pm

Meeting #2

1) Welcome & Purpose of the meeting *Meeting convened at 7:12 pm*

a. Purpose

The main purpose of an OAC is to strengthen the career and technical education program by making recommendations for program improvement and providing technical assistance to assure the most up to date curriculum content and appropriate applications of technology.

Advisory committees are a vital link between the career and technical education program and business and industry. In addition to state requirements to establish advisory committees, career and technical administrators, teachers and citizens recognize the value of community participation in the discussion of career and technical education issues. Advisory committees assist in assuring the relevance of the career and technical education program to the community and increase public awareness of the program. Committee members representing business, industry, labor and the general public bring a unique perspective to education and training programs. They provide a viewpoint which is invaluable to the career and technical education program.

b. Goals

- i. Provide recommendations to update, modify, expand, and improve the quality of the occupational program.
- ii. Support and strengthen the relationship between business, industry, and the community, and education.
- iii. Make recommendations to strengthen and expand the curriculum and provide assistance in implementing these recommendations.
- iv. Articulate long term goals and objectives of the occupational program to parents, employers, and the community
- v. Assist in identifying needs, determining priorities, and reviewing and evaluating curriculum

2) Grand Canyon FFA Activities 2022-2023 –

- a. Watch us on homepage: <https://www.thehomepagenetwork.com/ag-happening-wellsboro-students-win-at-pa-farm-show/>

Ana Perry, Grand Canyon FFA Reporter shared recent activities of the FFA chapter. Students attended the Women in Ag even in December creating arrangements with community members. Students attended a college visit at SUNY Cobleskill in November.

They attended the PA Farm Show and participated in the horticulture exhibits. Several students received 1st place. Students received Keystone FFA Degrees, and first year students were also FFA jacket recipients. FFA members had a full set of activities during FFA week in February in school and in the community. In March students participated in Ag Literacy Day and read to elementary students. Students will also be opening their sugar house for Maple weekend, as well as touring other maple sugar operations during the weekend.

3) FFA Alumni Updates

Stacey Coolidge of the FFA Alumni gave updates from the alumni. They had an excellent jacket ceremony to award first year members with FFA jackets in February attended by 80 people. They are having a chicken BBQ on April 1st at the Native Bagel parking lot in Wellsboro.

5) Overview of the program

- A) Letter of support needed
 - a) Akikos
 - b) Martins Garden

C) SAE Report

D) Spring tours

E) Intro to Ag as a science credit - proposal update

F) Revised Program of Study

Mrs. Berndtson reported on some program updates including the change to the 8 period day. Akikos has provided a letter of support for 2023, and Mrs. Berndtson will ask Martin's garden for a second letter. Mrs. Berndtson reported on SAE projects taking place this year and handed out an impact report. She also reported that the proposal to offer intro to ag as a science credit was put on hold as a new plan has been proposed for 9th grade science for the coming year.

6) Recruitment

- A) Recruitment day set for 3/20/23
- B) Middle School Ag club
 - a) Connecting with the middle school garden club.

Mrs. Berndtson updated the group on the upcoming recruitment day for 8th grade students and the Middle School Ag Club events that have been taking place. Students have been excited to participate both from the high school and the middle school.

8) Issues facing the school (or colleges in the career path)

- Greenhouse progress
- Continued compliance expectations
 - At least four representatives from industry, and at least 50% of the attendees are from industry.
 - 8 students in a program

Mrs. Coolidge recommended asking Sarah from “The Flower Girl” flower shop to participate as an advisory committee member, and potentially as a judge or a coach for a floriculture team in the future.

Mrs. Coots updated the group on the program reapproval and perkins items that we have to be aware of and have to focus on in the coming months and year. The Perkins audit had some corrective action items that either have been completed, or will be completed within the next couple of months. It was a very informative process and we will continue to learn. The program reapproval process continues to have more components but we will keep persisting to get our programs reapproved.

10) Curriculum, Facilities, Equipment/Supplies, Employer Satisfaction Report and Self Evaluation for OAC - See checklists from PDE CTE

a) Needed Equipment

Greenhouse - Progress and recommendations

[Work Bid](#)

[Greenhouse Proposal](#)

- Curriculum Assessment ([see attachment](#))
- Equipment Assessment ([see attachment](#))

[Ag Inventory](#)

- Facilities Assessment ([see attachment](#))

[Committee Bylaws:](#)

Mrs. Berndtson reported on the Greenhouse update - she met with Mrs. Huck who stated that the buildings and grounds committee would be meeting soon, and that there were a lot of other projects going on in the district that were slowing down the progress.

Mrs. Berndtson expressed some urgency that we will be losing one grant that was applied for, because of the length of the process and the time that was lost last year. She also stated a contract we have with a company to provide a piece of equipment is waiting to hear back from the district about when the structure will be done to install the equipment.

Mrs. Berndtson identified that the advisory committee members need to fill out some program assessment surveys this spring to remain compliant with program approval. These surveys will be sent out via email to the committee members with the meeting minutes.

Mrs. Berndtson presented the Perkins budget requests for 2023-2024. Stacey moved to approve the perkins budget requests as presented, Bryce seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

11) New program industry certification approvals

a) Game of Logging - Waiting to hear back from PDE

Mrs Berndtson said she has not heard back from PDE after submitting an application to have the Game of Logging added as a certification for this program of study.

11) NOCTI Test 2023

2023- 0 students being tested (some have moved to the ag general program of study)

12) Penn College NOW

Three student registered - 2022-2023

13) Program continuation discussion - Mrs. Coots and Mrs. Berndtson

Mrs. Berndtson and Mrs. Coots led a discussion talking about whether we should continue the Horticulture program. It was discussed that this program of study has had less students since we have begun the ag general program of study. That program of study is a better fit for more of our students, however it is not a statewide high priority occupation. Currently, other programs are allowed to use perkins funds, so the ag program still is able to use that funding source.

Each program takes a lot of time and manpower to keep it functioning, and it has been suggested because of low numbers and the effort it takes to run, that we should discontinue the program at this time. This would not change any of the course offerings, but just relieve some stress on Mrs. Berndtson and Mrs. Coots.

Some discussion from the committee was questioning whether there were students that just wanted plant sciences instead of a general ag program. One member asked how we would fold in the courses and continue the programming. Another member asked how we know if students are committed? A different member suggested that there are many up and coming plant specific jobs including in tissue culture, CFA, and soil science.

Mrs. Berndtson said that the committee could think it over and plans were made to have another zoom meeting to vote on the issue later in the Spring.

13) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm