

# WELLSBORO AGRI-SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

## GRAND CANYON FFA

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Wellsboro Agriscience Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting **Agenda**  
**April 3, 2023 7:00 pm**  
Meeting #1

1) Welcome & Purpose of the meeting *Meeting convened at 7:07 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 –

*Natasha Maddox, Grand Canyon FFA Presidnet shared recent activities of the FFA chapter. Students attended the PA Farm Show and participated in the horticulture exhibits and livestock contests. 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 including raising \$300 for our local food pantry. In March students participated in Ag Literacy Day and read to elementary students. Students opened their sugar house for Maple weekend, and toured other maple sugar operations during the weekend. Officers attended a winter officer retreat, and volunteered with the Tioga County Fair at two square dances. Officers teamed up with the CV chapter and completed opening ceremonies at the alumni meeting in February for the jacket ceremony. Members had a strawberry and cheese sale in February. Almost 30 members attended the ACES leadership conference. More recently, members attended the state legislative leadership conference and participated in the area public speaking contest.

### 3) FFA Alumni Updates

Natalie Maddox 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 had a chicken BBQ on April 1st at the Native Bagel parking lot in Wellsboro. They are presenting Senior awards at the FFA banquet and they presented an SAE grant to an FFA member from Wellsboro.

### 5) Overview of the program

- A) 2023- 8 period day
- B) Letter of support needed - Yearly
- C) SAE Report
- D) Intro to Ag as a science credit - proposal update

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
- B) Middle School Ag 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.

Mrs. Coots reported that the Mobile Ag Lab will be coming to Don Gill and Charlotte Lappla elementary in the Fall. Mrs. Berndtson added that she had written a grant to help fund the Ag Lab so that will fund the visit.

A committee member asked how our guidance department was, and if it was functioning well.

Mrs. Coots shared that students have to complete 27 credits to graduate. A committee member asked if we are asking the right questions to students or guidance counselors?

They encouraged us to bring guidance more into the discussion.

## 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
- Update on Program reapproval & Perkins Review (Mrs. Coots)

*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](#))
  - [Inventory List](#)
  - [Vernier Probeware Inventory](#)
- Facilities Assessment ([see attachment](#))

### b) [Supplemental Equipment Grant Proposal](#)

*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. Natalie moved to approve the perkins budget requests as presented, Taylor 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- 3 students being tested (April, proctor will be needed)

13) Horticulture program merger 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.*

*The horticulture advisory committee will have a meeting and vote. If the vote passes, the two committees will merge in the future.*

15) Adjourn

*Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm*

## Ag General Program Survey

