

**COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL OF VERMONT
FACULTY MEETING MINUTES
Waterbury State Office Complex (WSOC)
280 State Drive, Waterbury VT
Cherry Conference Room
May 16, 2016**

Approved

CHSVT Present: Charity Baker, Rebekah Blaisdell Simays, Jack Carson, Jeff Cassarino, Lisa Cowdrey, Sean Dobbin, Pauline Dwyer, Jerry Fortin, Angie Haggett, Harmony Harriman, Dan Hescock, John Howe, Marlana Hughes, Molly Humphrey, Ben Irish, Mike Lacoss, Dana Lesperance, Tod Lessard, Paul Major, Troy McAllister, Jan Noskey, Jake Petrasch, Ashley Pulaski, Mary Poulos, Nick Rulon, Bob Salzman, Sheila Sayah, Bobbi Shutts, Jeanne Smith, Bill Storz, Sharon Strange, Claire Swaha, Chad Thompson, John Vorder Bruegge, Matt Ware

CHSVT Absent: Chris Cosgrove, Laurette Garrand, John Long, Broni Plucas

Announcements – Troy McAllister and Dana Lesperance

Legislative session: The session is over for the season. The school budget was cut again. However, no RIFs will occur and at this time, we will not be losing vacant positions. It is still uncertain when we will be able to fill vacant positions.

Rebekah Blaisdell Simays is our newest Correctional Educator. She is teaching at Northwest. Jeanne and Laurette are teaching at both the facility and the P&P.

Jake has completed his original probationary period and is now an official state employee.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

John VB made a motion to approve the April 1st faculty meeting minutes. Nick seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

Shared Visioning/Team Learning

As part of the shared visioning and team learning, many trainings are being attended by educators along with other DOC employees. Some of these trainings include, Trauma Informed, Smart Goals: Planning from Data and Assessments, VSAC Conference, and NCCER. The idea is for more integrated trainings so that knowledge can be shared.

Troy highly recommends reading the book, written by Peter Senge; The Fifth Discipline: The Art and Practice of the Learning Organization. The book focuses on team learning and five disciplines; Personal Mastery, Mental Models, Building a Shared Vision, Team Learning, and Systems Thinking.

Multi-year approach to integration:

There will not be a merge of services or structure in year one. First, we need to start identifying any overlap and planning for mindful merging. Syncing of calendars needs to occur.

There was a discussion about space issues with programming, sharing of students' time, contracted employees being on an entirely different schedule from state employees, and changing expectations.

Part of year one will be to work toward a unified case plan and one referral for all.

Some brainstorming ideas – What would it take, as a system or individual, in order to plan more effectively as a larger team, ie. One referral/one plan.

Define criteria for information gathering.

Define criteria for roles.

Define criteria for needs of individuals.

Education built into incentive.

Realistic offerings between all campuses.

Offender part of the planning team/all entities part of the planning team.

Need for unified plan.

Education part of planning team and have a voice.

Eliminate the disconnect between the way education is run vs programming.

Education needs to be “front loaded” into the plan, not as the offender is preparing to leave.

Academy and/or facility training on the value and validity of education.

CCV and UVM

CCV is looking at ways to provide college-level classes for offenders. They are currently looking at Chittenden and one other facility. There is no real current plan. This is just an FYI.

UVM Sociology Professor, Kathryn Fox is looking at possibly developing an inside-out program where she would teach a class in a facility with both offenders and UVM students present.

Kathryn Fox is also conducting research for Program Services with her Sociology class. Her class came to a Program Services meeting recently and presented their initial findings to the group.

Habits of Mind – Dana

Dana shared some HOM history for the new teachers. He also recommended a book: Inside the Criminal Mind by, Stanton Samenow.

HOM Exercise: Broke up into groups of two or three. Each group was given one of fifteen, “criminal thinking errors” and were tasked with finding ways to apply the HOM to each in a way that could change thinking and behavior.

FOCUS Updates/Information – Angie

Focus had to be restored back to last Thursday due to some update issues. Please reenter anything that you may have added after last Thursday morning.

The Focus Learning Management System has been purchased. This will give us the ability to upload and house everything for the students. It will be tied to the gradebook. You will be able to share lessons and other tasks.

CHSVT Display for Events – Pauline and Claire

Pauline and Claire have volunteered to create a CHSVT display for the DOC Reward and Recognition ceremony, on June 13th. The plan is to have every campus represented.

Each campus was given a piece of foam board with instructions on how the display should look. Photos from three years ago to the present are being collected on the shared drive. A slide show will also play along with the display.

NEASC Update – Charity/Dana

Still working on a few gaps as we move on to Part two. Still on time for the October visit.

June Faculty Gathering – Sheila

Sheila shared information about the gathering on June 3rd at Allis State Park, in Randolph/Brookfield. She will send all necessary information out in an email.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Sayah