

E1400.6
AC88
17:5

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

✓ NOV 29 1986

ACTIVE news

Dallas Public Library



Vol. XVII, Number 5

October 1986

THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN TEXAS

Roundtables Focus on Voc Ed Framework



Vice Chairman George Matott talks to participants.

Over 100 individuals gathered in Austin September 11 to participate in roundtable discussions on a new vocational education framework.

Sponsored by the ACTIVE, the roundtables focused on a "concept paper" containing Council and Texas Education Agency approaches to refocus vocational education.

In June 1986, the State Board of Education asked the Council and TEA to develop alternative approaches to make voc ed more responsive to the needs of the current and future labor markets. Following a review of the two sets of proposals in July, the Board instructed the Agency to combine the proposals into a "single concept paper" for Board discussion on September 12.

The concept paper addresses the K-12 curriculum, special populations, alternative programs, priority occupations, funding, sunseting, post-secondary occupational

education, and regional planning.

The results of the "roundtables" were verbally conveyed to State Board members on September 12 by Council Vice Chairman George Matott and Executive Director Will Reece. Following a 3-hour discussion, the Board instructed the TEA to revise the Master Plan for Vocational Education, on hold since June, to reflect a new framework for vocational education (see Master Plan article on this page).

One-third of the 102 roundtable participants represented business, industry, labor, and government with the remainder from education. Two members of the State Board of Education attended portions of the roundtables meeting.

A written summary of the roundtable discussions is available from the Council office. An executive summary was mailed to the State Board on September 26.



State Board member Pete Morales discusses the alternatives with ACTIVE members Bill Zinsmeyer & George Matott.

Master Plan for Voc Ed

The State Board of Education has set October 30 as the date for a public hearing on a revised Master Plan for Vocational Education, with final approval of the Plan to come as early as the Board's November 14-15 meeting.

On September 12, the Board's Committee on Finance and Programs and Committee on Students met jointly to discuss a concept paper that combined Council and Texas Education

Agency recommendations to reshape vocational education. Following a three-hour discussion, the Agency staff was instructed to make revisions in the Master Plan, put on hold by the Board in June, for further discussion when the Board meets October 10-11 in San Antonio.

Following any Board revisions at its October meeting, the Master Plan will be printed and distributed statewide for review prior to the public hearing on October 30. The hearing will be held in the Board room at the Texas

(MASTER PLAN, Continued on Page 3)

Legislature Enacts Budget Cuts; Impact on Voc Ed Mixed

The Legislature, in passing \$582.5 million in spending cuts during a special session to deal with the state's 1986-87 biennial budget crisis, took the following actions relevant to vocational, adult, and community education for Fiscal Year 1987, which began September 1:

- Maintained state funding for public school district vocational education at \$245.9 million;
- Reduced state funding for community/junior college occupational education from \$214.7 to \$195.4 million;
- Reduced the funding level for the Texas State Technical Institute System from \$42.3 to \$38.9 million;
- Reduced state dollars for community education from \$752,500 to \$500,000;
- Maintained state funding for adult education at \$7.5 million;
- Increased state funding for apprenticeship training from \$250,000 to \$375,000;
- Reduced funding for Texas Education Agency administration by \$1.2 million which, coupled with cost savings and other reductions, brings the total Agency budget to \$33.0 million, resulting in elimination of state dollar support

Accountable Costs Recommendations

The Accountable Costs Advisory Committee presented recommendations to the State Board of Education at the September 12 meeting.

This Committee, chaired by Elaine Ballard of Paris ISD, is currently composed of fifteen (9 voting and 6 nonvoting) members. In December 1985, the State Board charged the Accountable Costs Advisory Committee with determining the annual average accountable costs to school districts of operating a quality educational program.

One of the major tasks included in the charge was to determine instructional arrangements per pupil costs and appropriate weights for vocational education.

In response to that charge and after indepth research, the following recommendation was submitted:

"The Accountable Costs Advisory Committee recommends that the State Board of Education be provided broader authority for determining instructional arrangements and weights for vocational education. It is further recommended that the Legislature establish 1.65 as the overall instructional weight for vocational education and authorize the State Board of Education to vary weights for different instructional arrangements within a range whose average aggregate does not exceed the amount set in statute.

It is also recommended that:

- The weights adopted for vocational education programs be adjusted to account for differences attributable to the additional costs associated with eleventh and twelfth month teacher salaries.
- The State Board of Education be provided discretionary authority to use vocational education funds to assist districts with the capital start-up costs associated with developing new vocational education programs.
- The State Board of Education continue to pursue the evaluation and restructuring of vocational education to reflect the current needs of the economy."

Another recommendation affecting vocational education has to do with indirect costs. The Committee is recommending that districts be allowed to expend up to 27% of their vocational education allocations for indirect costs. Other special programs will also be affected.

for an additional 33 positions, 22 of which are vocational and three are adult/community education; and

- Maintained current funding for the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System administration, less cost savings and other 1987 reductions, at \$6.5 million.

The new appropriations bill contains two riders relevant to Texas Education Agency vocational education administration. One rider directs the Agency not to reduce the vocational agriculture and home economics education staffs.

The other rider expresses legislative intent that TEA, to make up for reductions in state funds for Agency staff, not reduce positions directly related to program development by funding those positions, consistent with federal law, with federal program improvement funds and any source of matching funds available.

Currently, the TEA vocational staff is funded on a 50/50 match of federal/state dollars. Of the 22 vocational positions targeted for elimination, approximately 12 are in program development, with the remainder in the compliance/funding section of the Agency. TEA will exert efforts to save as many positions as possible utilizing federal program improvement funds to be matched by any source of funds available, be it state/local dollars not immediately included in the Agency's overall operating budget.

Upcoming Events

- Oct. 30 - State Board Public Hearing on Voc Ed, Austin
- Nov. 21 - ACTVE Meeting, Austin
- Dec. 4-6 - National Association of State Councils on Voc Ed Meeting, Dallas
- Dec. 5-6 - American Vocational Association Meeting, Dallas

Select Committee Reviews P-S Voc-Tech

The Select Committee on Higher Education's Task Force on Research Technology and Higher Education/Business Relations will meet October 9 to hear testimony regarding the proposed guidelines on the Master Plan for Technical-Vocational Higher Education.

Among groups invited to provide testimony will be representatives from the Community College Association, the State Private Industry Council, and TSTI. The meeting will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the Sergeant at Arms room in the Capitol.

The six guidelines slated for consideration are:

1. Private-public partnership, with the state funding generic training and the private sector funding specific training.
2. Adaptable, flexible, and responsive delivery of training in a rapidly changing job market.
3. State vocational programs should emphasize career adaptability, with short-term training and retraining courses.
4. Decentralized (regional) planning of community college vocational courses, in cooperation with Private Industry Councils.
5. TSTI reserved for specialized statewide training, with corporate cooperation and funding.
6. Effective coordination between secondary and post-secondary institutions for student articulation into post-secondary programs.

(MASTER PLAN, Continued from Page 1)

Education Agency in Austin.

During the 3-hour discussion among Board members on September 12, Council Vice Chairman George Matott and Executive Director Will Reece verbally shared the results of roundtable discussions held on September 11 by the Council to solicit reactions to the ACTIVE/Texas Education Agency proposals to refocus vocational education. Matott also restated concerns previously expressed by the Council.

Following is a summary of the discussions that transpired at the September Board meeting:

1. School districts should be required to integrate keyboarding/computer literacy skills into the elementary curriculum, to be phased in over a five-year period;

2. Rather than require all students to take a 1/2 unit course in comprehensive career guidance in grades 7 or 8, school districts would be required to integrate into the essential elements of existing academic courses at these grades occupational information that will acquaint all students with the education and skill requirements for occupations cutting across all educational levels (e.g., professional, technical, skilled, semi-skilled, etc.);

3. A consensus was reached (at the September 13 Board meeting following a deadlock among committee members on September 12) that occupational cluster preparation would begin at grade 10, with occupational specific training beginning at grade 11. The Board will study the effectiveness of providing specific training at grade 11, with the possibility of eventually limiting specialized training to grade 12;

4. Coordinated Vocational Academic Education courses, for educationally disadvantaged students, would continue, for the moment, to be offered at grades 9-12, with a study to be done to determine the effectiveness of continuing these courses. Vocational Education for the Handicapped would continue to be offered;

5. Both Council and Agency recommendations for alternative education programs (designed for students behind in school) were referred to the Committee on Students, with no definitive Board action taken at this time;

6. In regard to funding, the Legislature will be asked to grant the Board the flexibility to decide funding weights for the various vocational courses;

7. Considerable discussion transpired on priority occupations, with the recognition that there must be local flexibility on a regional basis to identify priority occupational needs; and

8. Board members did not express any major concerns with the language for post-secondary occupational education and regional planning contained in the combined "concept paper."

The Master Plan for Vocational Education will be patterned after the Board's Long Range Plan for Vocational Education, in that specific career development strategies for vocational education are being written to match the goals and objectives contained in the overall Long Range Plan. When it is completed, the Master Plan for Vocational Education will be in two parts, addressing K-12 and post-secondary education. The Plan will contain not only career development strategies, but also a time frame for implementation.

AVA/NASCOVE Conventions

The American Vocational Association (AVA) will celebrate its 60th Birthday during the Annual Convention to be held in Dallas December 5-9.

In conjunction with the AVA Convention, Texas will play host to the National Association of State Councils on Vocational Education (NASCOVE) with activities slated for December 4-6.

AVA will focus on nine issues with hundreds of intensive sessions utilizing all types of opportunities for interaction and participation. The topical issues will include: Changing Expectations in the Workplace; What the Private Sector Expects from our Students and Programs; Shaping the Cur-

riculum to Meet Workplace Needs; Working Relationships within the School Staff; Self-Renewal for Effective Teaching; Management Support for Improving Instruction; Evaluating Programs Effects; Improving Equity and Program Access; and Public and Private Partnerships.

Pre-registration must be mailed by October 31 to AVA. Contact AVA, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, for registration material.

Pre-registration deadline for NASCOVE is October 27. For registration forms and information, contact ACTIVE, P.O. Box 1886, Austin, Texas 78767, (512)463-5490.

Vocational Education Week

"Vocational Education: Building America's Future" will be the theme of Vocational Education Week, scheduled for February 8-14, 1987.

Sharon Willis, Editor
Lynda Permenter, Assoc. Editor

ACTIVE—(512) 463-5490
Gary O. Boren, Chairman
Will Reece, Executive Director

The Advisory Council for Technical-
Vocational Education in Texas
P. O. Box 1886
Austin, Texas 78767