



P.O. Drawer 140, 100 Central Circle  
Low Moor, VA 24457  
Office (540) 863-1800

### **JRTC Board Meeting Notes**

What follows are the notes from the December 13, 2016 meeting of the Jackson River Technical Center Joint Board of Control. You are encouraged to contact Eugene Kotulka if you have questions regarding this information.

Present: Cindy Bennett (Covington City), Bert Baker (Covington City), Eddy Clemons (Covington City), Craig Lane (Alleghany County), Gerald Franson (Alleghany County), Jennifer Seckner (Alleghany County), Glenn Spangler (JRTC Director), Christy Armentrout (Clerk), Melinda Snead-Johnson (Covington City Superintendent) and Eugene Kotulka (Alleghany County Superintendent).

1. The minutes of the November 8 meeting were approved.
2. Mr. Spangler reported the third six weeks would end December 20.
3. Mr. Spangler reminded the Board the subcommittees for Marketing, Impediments to Collaboration, Increased Board Engagement, and Increased Collaboration are scheduled to meet within the next week.
4. Mr. Spangler reported that himself, Mr. Kotulka, Ms. Snead-Johnson, Mr. Starcher (automotive instructor), and Mr. Persinger (Alleghany County Public Schools Board Member) traveled to Nicholas County Technical Center in West Virginia on December 5, 2015. Mr. Spangler noted that NCTC has a more business-like structure and that going into the future the board will look to see what can be taken away from that model and applied here. He noted that NCTC does not have more programs than JRTC does, but they do have project-based learning activities and similar class sizes in a half day program structure.
5. A discussion was held regarding the New Tech program. Mr. Spangler informed the board that it had been mentioned to him in his last meeting with the school Superintendents that the schools are interested in utilizing space at JRTC to begin a New Tech program with funds available from the Alleghany Foundation that would cover startup fees, staff development, and a director's fee. Mr. Spangler said that the space in which the Building Trades/Electrical program had been housed prior to this school year was open, due to that program being moved to the former Alternative Education Program classroom. He said that he was willing to allow the program to get a temporary start in this space, but that it should not be a permanent housing for the program because expansion for JRTC needs to remain an open possibility. Mr. Spangler opened the floor to discussion among board members as to what their thoughts are about the possibility of implementing the New Tech program utilizing JRTC classrooms. He noted that if the space is adequate and the program can get its start here that he is for it, but that this building needs to be here for CTE classes, so this can only be a short-term solution. He is willing to move forward with the idea as long as this stipulation in this place.

Board members added the following comments and questions:

- We need to look at what happens in the long-term, after the two years is up. It was not considered to be practical for it to be at JRTC during the initial study and it does not seem feasible that anything in regard to that recommendation has changed.

- The focus needs to be on growing JRTC, not starting a new program. The board would need to know what happens after the initial 2 year period, and that questions would need to be answered before action could be taken.
  - Both boards need to figure out what they want to do before the Joint Board could take any action on this matter. There is a good opportunity here with the New Tech program, but that all options need to be considered before action is taken.
  - Not sure another building could be built in two years even if there was funding available for one, and that would need to be considered moving forward.
  - Mr. Kotulka stated he would like for the board to seriously consider taking advantage of the opportunity while the seed money is being offered by The Foundation, as this is an opportunity that has not presented itself before.
  - It would be difficult to predict enrollments, which could be a problem when considering funding and staffing of the program. What is the plan for splitting costs and how would that be decided?
  - Where would the teachers for the program come from and how would the work load be divided? In what ways do the school systems plan to work together to staff the program? Mr. Kotulka answered that work on details would not begin until there was an agreement to move forward with the plan in order to avoid unnecessary planning work. Mrs. Snead-Johnson added that The Foundation is saying it will cover the cost of a director for the program, who could be an Assistant Director for JRTC. She also noted that the costs should be absorbed by the Foundation during the initial 4 years of the program, and will then be passed on to the school boards at the end of that term.
  - Are the schools locked into the program for 4 years if they agree to move forward with the program? Mr. Kotulka responded that the contract would be renewed on an annual basis and could be discontinued on an annual basis.
6. Ashley Boyd was approved as a part-time clinical instructor for the nurse aide program.
7. Bills in the amount of \$16,631.74 were approved. Bills and salaries in the amount of \$80,280.57 were also paid in accordance with approved salary and benefit schedules.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on January 10 at 12:00 p.m.**