

Director's Report to the Board of Education October 2009



Item #1: Update on the Wind Generation Project

Addie VanDeurzen, the instructor for the program that utilizes the wind generator will have a PowerPoint report for the board at this October meeting.

As of this writing the wind generator is:

1. Set up at the site at the middle school.
2. The propeller is spinning (wind permitting)
3. Addie's PowerPoint will cover the wind generator's current state

Item #2:

The CDC is proud to announce that one of our instructor, Tom Haskins – Automotive, has been named Outstanding Teacher of the year. He received a plaque from the Board of Directors. Frank Lamb and I will be attending an award ceremony for Tom and other recipients at the University of Vermont in Burlington later this month.

Item #3:

As per the board's request, Bob Mazur is scheduled to present the first "Annual Review of the Adult Education Program" to the board and to the general public. Future presentations will take place annually in September.

Item #4:

An issue has been raised with regards to requiring criminal background checks on all adult students enrolled in our day program. My recommendation to this board is to follow procedure and to bring this issue to the policy committee for its consideration. I have done some legal and other research on this issue in anticipation of possible policy change. The research consisted of:

- A) Speaking with Ruth Durkee, Bob Mazur's counterpart in Randolph. Randolph recently researched this question. Ruth is also an attorney.
- B) Speaking with Bruce Lee-Clark in order to get his opinion.
- C) Researching Vermont tech education regulations (Cite: Section 2371) which states:

2371 Entitlement to Technical Education

1. An individual is entitled to enroll in and complete a technical education program of part-time

Or full-time duration if the individual:

A. is at least in the 11th grade in a graded school or is at least 16 in a non-graded situation

B. does not have a high school diploma

C. applies for the program, and

D. meets the admissions criteria set forth in the admissions policies of the technical center and the technical education program and is accepted in the program.

Based on current practice and the information I've gathered thus far, I can offer the following assessment:

1. Ruth indicated that the SVCDC cannot legally require criminal background checks on adults in our day program who are without diplomas or with GED diplomas.
2. Ruth indicated that the SVCDC can legally require criminal background checks on adults in the day program who have a high school diploma.
3. Of the 16 Tech centers across Vermont, Ruth believes that 3 require background checks and 13 do not.
4. The SVCDC currently does check adult applicants against the various sex offender registries both statewide and nationally.
5. The SVCDC currently requires every adult who applies for admission into either our day or evening program to complete an application form that asks if they have ever been convicted of a crime. If they answer "Yes" they must explain. The application also asks for references (which we check).

Various estimates were given to me relative to how long a typical background check takes. These estimates ranged upwards of 10 weeks. However, we requested a background check on an instructor for one of our evening classes on 9/2/09. We received clearance notification back on 10/13/09. This is just under six weeks.

Item #5:

At its September meeting the RGB authorized the CDC administration to submit an RFP for legal services. As of this date, we received only one bid...which we have not opened. We have two options:

1. Open the bid and then decide either to award the bid or give the process another month to get more bids.
2. Keep the bid sealed and give the process another month to get more bids.

I recommend option #2. I am still able to use Steve Stitzel in the interim via a billable hour arrangement standard for any ad hoc legal service.

Item #7:

Cosmetology 1 has covered 6 chapters to date! They have embraced if not quite conquered shampooing, braiding, fingerwaves, pin curls, roller sets, thermal styling, blow dry styling and yes.....a blunt haircut!



Item #8: Engineering and Design News

The year is well underway in the Engineering and Design program. We have 4 classes happening: 3D Computer-Aided-Design (CAD), Engineering 1, Engineering 2, and Engineering 3. Here is some of their work...

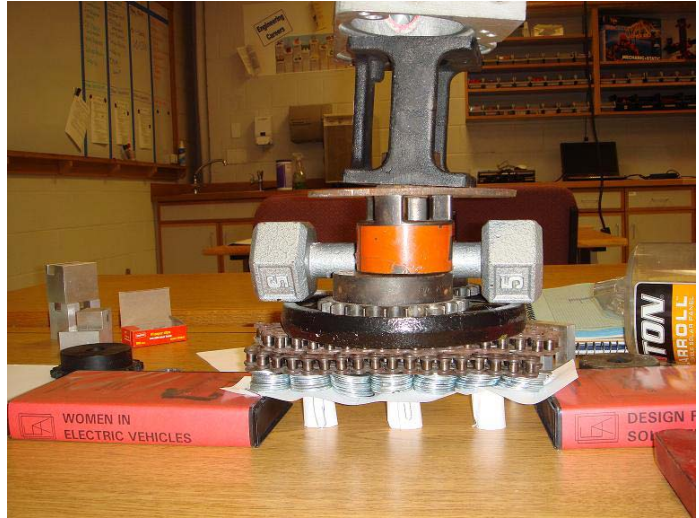
Submitted by: Dr. Barone

Engineering 3

Two years of engineering and design at the CDC was not enough for one student, so he is back for a third year. This semester, he is working on the design of a personal-sized hovercraft with the assistance of a mentor who has a background in aeronautical and mechanical engineering (and a former CDC engineering student!). This student is also working as an engineering co-op student at Vermont Composites this semester as a member of the CDC's co-op class.

Engineering 2

Students were given a challenge on the first day of class. They were given 5 paper clips, 1 sheet of 8 ½" X 11" paper, and two VHS cases. They were asked to set the cases 8" apart, bridge the gap, and see how much weight they could support... 37 lbs!



Students are working on the Project Lead The Way Principles of Engineering curriculum this semester and will have the opportunity to earn college credit upon successful completion of the course and final exam. One of the students recently went on a college visit and reported back that he was able to help a sophomore engineering student with his homework because of what he had learned at the CDC. Another student plans to bring the concepts of civil engineering into his senior project next semester.

3D CAD

3D CAD continues to be a popular short-block course. Here, students learn how to use Autodesk's Inventor 3D CAD program by working on fun modeling and assembling projects.

