

Technical Education Department  
Board Report  
April 2020

In our lives there are many pivotal points in time where our personal or professional lives change. There are also points in our history that change how we view business as usual. I believe spring of 2020 is going to be one of those pivotal points. On March 26th I wrote to the tech center staff the following:

*I think it is important for everyone at the Tech Center to understand how to use google classroom in order to be able to support one another as we enter into new and uncharted territory of offering our classes in a remote format. Obviously, this is not the ideal way to teach CTE students but one of the things that has always impressed me about the Tech Center Staff is how everyone is always trying to think of new and better ways of helping our students learn. Since we have had to close our doors to students they are not able to learn anything about our programs. For probably the remainder of the year we will be challenged to provide the best experience we can for our students to learn things about our program. One of the positive things that may come out of experience is for those of us who have not taken advantage of google classroom we will learn some new things that might help us in the future. This will be some great professional development for us all.*

*The best way I could think of getting started was to start my own google classes. So far I have set up classes for our Para Pros, Teachers and office staff.*

The first step in setting up for remote learning was gathering student emails from all 8 districts that send students to the Tech Center. Christy Mitchem was a huge help in importing emails from consortium districts. She also set up a new place in PowerSchool to store the student email addresses and student phone numbers and a report so that our teachers could easily access that information. When the April 2nd order to close schools for the rest of the year occurred our teachers were able to invite students to their classrooms. In addition to our weekly staff meetings, I was able to meet with each teacher individually to discuss lessons they could do remotely. As I told them during our Friday April 17th meeting, I have never been more impressed or proud to be a part of the Tech Center. I think they are doing a fantastic job of providing learning experiences in a non-traditional format. As a co-teacher for each of their classrooms, I am able to see the lessons they are posting and the responses from students. The positive relationships between students and staff come through in their comments. As of our second day of remote learning, 94% of the students had accepted the email invitation to join the classes. This leaves a small number of students that we are mailing packets of material to so they can work from home.

In other News:

Congratulations to Allison Olson for earning a 2020 Breaking Traditions Certificate of Recognition from the Michigan Department of Education. Allison was nominated by Mrs. Sturm for her work in Electrical and Mechanical Systems in Industry class. See the full press release at the link below.

[https://www.michigan.gov/.../0,4615,7-140-37818\\_34785-526582-...](https://www.michigan.gov/.../0,4615,7-140-37818_34785-526582-...)

We are waiting on final inspections for the Trades Building. We should be all set for the fall to occupy the building. There are some small items that did not get finished but we will try and address those either this summer or next fall. Bob and I worked to order sets of carpentry, electrical and plumbing tools this spring to assist with the instructional delivery change. We also ordered curriculum materials put together by the Carpenters Union that should help set up lessons and track student skill development. I was also in communication with a Tech Center in St. Clair County that made a similar move a few years ago. Unfortunately with the COVID 19 shut down we were not able to schedule a visit. We did spend a lot of time checking out pictures of their facility. Their CTE Director sent me a copy of their course outline that should be helpful to Bob. We have some good ideas to try next year.

All of the spring student competitions were cancelled this year due to Covid-19. We are receiving refunds from those organizations and hotels to the field trip competition fund. We also did not spend funds on supplies in the second half of the year like we normally would. Despite the state wide impact, the guidance from the Office of Career and Technical Education at MDE is that we must use our added cost funds during this budget year. I worked with Jen and Helen on our year-end closeout process this month to ensure we spend all of the grant funds and added cost funds in the appropriate manner to avoid any recapture of funds. It was different to work with them remotely without the benefit of a face-to-face meeting but we were able to get it all.

Respectfully,

Michael Mulligan