

Blinn College District Schulenburg Campus Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2024
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Liberal Arts Building, Room 120

The Schulenburg Advisory Committee met on September 19, 2024, in Room 120 of the Liberal Arts Building at 100 Ranger Dr., Blinn-Schulenburg Campus, Schulenburg, Texas.

Committee members present were Ms. Kayla Kaspar, Mr. Jon Wunderlich, Mr. Chris Hooper, and Mr. Chris Sodek. Absent members included Mr. Andy McHazlett, Mr. Ron Langhamer, and Ms. Kimberly Newton.

Representatives from Blinn College present were Mr. Leighton Schubert, Dr. Becky Garlick, Ms. Monica Heffley, Ms. Loraine Orellana, Mr. Jay Anderson, Mr. Marshall Rich, Mr. Richard Hobbs, and Dr. Becky McBride.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Hooper at 12:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes. Mr. Jon Wunderlich made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2024 meeting, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kayla Kaspar.

Enrollment Report. Dr. Becky McBride gave an update on enrollment for the Schulenburg Campus. Dr. McBride reported that the Schulenburg Campus had an increase in enrollment for the Fall 2024 term with 71 academic credit students taking the majority of their classes on the Schulenburg Campus. She mentioned that there were 124 students taking specifically online courses in the Schulenburg area, which was an increase from 118 students taking online courses last Fall.

Enrollment for dual-credit courses has also increased. Dr. McBride stated that she believed the increase is due to the new FAST program and ACCSS Program. She also mentioned that the Deans and/or Assistant Deans had worked with the Schulenburg and Sealy Campus Deans to examine the campus offerings and schedules to try to maximize enrollment.

Dr. McBride provided more specific details on how classes were scheduled for specific majors, so students would be able to take courses together that were needed without time conflicts or long waits between classes.

ACCSS Update. Mr. Jon Wunderlich and Chris Sodek commended the Schulenburg Campus for all the hard work done to help the ACCSS program be a success for the students taking dual-credit courses at the area high schools. Jon Wunderlich complimented the ACCSS program for assisting students and providing opportunities for students that would not be possible without the ACCSS Program. Both Mr. Jon Wunderlich and Mr. Chris Sodek expressed their appreciation for

the ACCSS Student Success Coach as the counselors' roles have changed, and they are required to focus more on mental health issues within their schools and less on career planning and dual credit.

Dr. Becky Garlick mentioned that 98% of ACCSS students who began dual-credit courses completed their courses. Dr. Becky Garlick also mentioned that part of The Greater Texas Foundation grant process is to track students to see where students attend college after graduating from high school, and she is very interested in seeing the results of tracking data.

HVAC Level 1 Certification. Mr. Richard Hobbs explained the HVAC Level 1 Certification course that is going to be offered starting next week on the Schulenburg Campus. The class is at capacity with 12 students enrolled and already has a waiting list for the next class. One of the local high schools has 8 students that want to take this course, possibly in the summer. Mr. Richard Hobbs was very impressed with the level of interest in this course in the community. Mr. Richard Hobbs also explained the types of job that can be obtained with the HVAC certification as well as potential salary. He briefly mentioned other types of certifications that are available through Blinn College.

Mr. Leighton Schubert asked Mr. Jay Anderson to clarify the different degrees and certifications that are offered through Blinn College.

Ms. Loraine Orellana explained that the Smithville Workforce is using scholarship funding to pay for all but two students who are enrolled in the HVAC 1 Certification program. Those two students did not qualify for a scholarship or tuition assistance because they live outside of the designated area (Lee, Fayette, and Bastrop counties) as specified in the grant.

Announcements. Dr. Becky Garlick mentioned other course offerings being offered this Fall on the Schulenburg Campus that include Central Texas Vegetable Gardening, Garden Solutions: Pests, Disease and Weeds, Natural Health Remedies, and Develop Disease-Suppressive Soils that are all being taught by Mr. David Will who is very knowledgeable and well-known in the area.

Mr. Jay Anderson thanked Dr. Garlick for her efforts in getting these new courses established on the Schulenburg Campus.

Discussion. Mr. Leighton Schubert gave an update on the upcoming Waller Campus to the Advisory Committee. He explained that the Blinn College Board of Trustees approved the purchase of the land to build the new campus due to anticipated growth in that area.

Ms. Kayla Kaspar made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Jon Wunderlich seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 PM.