Superintendent’s Report Addendum

September 19, 2018
Patricia A. Hannaford Regional Technical School District Board of Directors’ Meeting

MAKERY UPDATE AND SUMMER MAKERY EVENTS

During the summer, the Makery Steering committee remained active and busy. The committee met several times between June and the end of August and took steps to plan two pre-maker events. One occurred on Monday, July 16, and the second took place on August 1. The July 16 event showcased our engineering lab, and nine participants attended. On August 1, we showcased both the engineering lab and the construction trades lab, and 15 participants joined us. The feedback that we received was positive and several individuals came both times. The next step for the committee is to host a mentor recruitment event on September 19 for interested makers to learn how they can serve as part of our roll out to the community by volunteering to monitor a program space once a week. The steering committee is currently designing the agenda for that evening. The event is scheduled to begin at 6:30 after our monthly board meeting.

VISIT to CENTER OF GRAVITY IN TROY, NY

On Tuesday, August 28, Bill Biederman, Devon Karpak and I traveled to Troy, NY to visit the maker space there, which is called Center of Gravity. Holly, our host, was very informative and provided us with a lot of practical ideas about running a maker space including protocols, procedures, fee structures, training and class offerings. We have shared elements of our visit with the rest of the steering committee and have begun to incorporate some of those ideas into our thinking and planning. An important aspect of the facility is the amount of signage that explains the safety measures in place for each device and the need to be trained and assessed to be able to use various pieces of equipment.
STATE GRANT AWARDS

During the course of the summer, we were notified that we were the recipients of two State grants. As I mentioned in my July report, the Agency of Education has given us a preliminary notification that we have qualified for a $75K Innovation Grant that will be processed shortly. As a reminder, the proposal that was accepted is for equipment and personnel to add a Virtual Reality learning component to our technical and pre-technical programs in addition to including outreach and two-week shadow experiences for middle school students. I will be providing ongoing information about how we will be using the grant once we have the final authorization and guidelines for its use.

In addition to the AOE Innovation Grant, PAHCC has also made a successful proposal for enhanced safety and security at the center. I recently returned a signed agreement for an FY19 School Safety and Security Grant totalling $21,677.90. This grant is a 25% matching grant. Our local contribution is for $7,225.97. The purpose of the grant is to help us address safety and security measures that were highlighted last year during a VSBIT safety audit. We have identified three projects to fund with the money that will be made available. The projects are (1) a card access system for four external doors; (2) a blue beacon warning system that will alert people both inside the building and outside that we are in a “secure the building” response; and (3) a safety film applied glazing to reinforce windows around the entrance to the building. Two of these projects have already been undertaken at MUHS (the card access system and the blue beacon system). Addressing these projects will achieve several goals - adhering to recommendations from VSBIT (which will help us qualify for additional safety and security grants), following the recommendations by first responders for consistency in systems and procedures on our shared campus, and most importantly taking the appropriate precautions to enhance safety measures for our students and staff.