

# New regulations for Career, Tech Programs

## School Committee presented draft, discuss any complaints

JESSICA BOISCLAIR  
jboisclair@ricentral.com

COVENTRY- A presentation was given to the School Committee by the Director of the Regional Career Center, Lori Ferguson explaining the new regulations for the Career and Technical programs.

She explained to the committee that a work session was held on Nov. 17 by the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education to discuss the regulation draft.

She said that the draft written up was developed with three things in mind.

First, that all students who take a career in the newly named Career Preparation Program, get results that provide them with skills to go into the work force.

That the skills lead to post secondary training or certifications and that the investment put into the career and technical training leads to quality results.

Ferguson explained to the committee that the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is thinking up some ideas for new innovation programs.

She said that RIDE is looking towards the future and to programs that may be used in upcoming years.

She used the example of having an online class but instead of having a shop or lab area, inventing a virtual lab for the students.

She explained to the committee that this however, could be a problem.

She said that since the innovation programs have not been developed yet, it is hard to determine what kind of re-



Times File Photo

The Coventry School Committee discusses the new regulations for the Career and Technical Programs. They plan to read the draft and submit any complaints to Board of Regents.

sults they will have.

Ferguson also explained to the committee that the way the regions are split up will also change.

She said that currently Coventry shares a region with Exeter, West Greenwich and North Kingstown.

She said under this current region, any parent outside of Coventry can

send their children to Coventry's technical programs and Coventry can send their children to other programs within the region.

Under the new regulations however, students are guaranteed access to all RIDE approved programs throughout the state.

The proposed region for transporta-

tion will be Coventry, West Warwick, East Greenwich, Warwick, Situate, Foster and Gloucester.

Ferguson told the committee that having the region's changed could positively and negatively affect the town.

She said that the change broadens

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# School Committee to look over draft of new regulations

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Coventry's region which gives the program an opportunity to acquire more students and tuition can go up.

Also, she said Coventry can draw students from West Warwick and East Greenwich as well.

However, she said that now there are two Career Preparation Programs students can go to in the region which may cause a fight for territory.

She explained to the committee that currently Warwick has programs that Coventry also has, and that once the region changes a program cannot be replicated within that region.

Also, once the regions

change, students can go to any programs throughout the state, but that if it is not within the town's region the local education agency (LEA) will not provide transportation for that student.

She said they must however, still provide tuition.

The committee brought up at the meeting the impact this could have on the budget if students enroll in other programs but the town's LEA still has to pay their tuition.

It was also brought up that a student can jump around from program to program throughout the state.

Superintendent Michael Coventry explained that the Superintendents Association has asked

the commission through the Department of Career and Technical Education to consider implementing a time line for students.

This timeline would say that any student who was enrolled in a certain program in a certain town could not switch after so much time has passed.

Ferguson said that a directors meeting is being held on Dec. 12 to discuss the draft for the new regulations and that a regional meeting for the School Committee to join will be announced.

It was decided that the School Committee would look over the draft and submit some type of resolution with their complaints to the board.