**Virtual Education Advisory Committee (VEAC)**

**Meeting Information**

**Date**: 5/9/18

**Location**: Online Video Conference

**Time**: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**Committee Members**: **Angelique Littlejohn**, Jamie Christensen, **Jeff Verosky**, **Katie Swistowicz**, Laurie Davis, **Nancy Johnson**, **Nish Goicolea,** Representative Freeman, **Richard Parker,** **R.J. Kost**, **Shannon Siebert**, Steve Hopkins, Summer Stephens, Tanya Sisneros, Zeta Anderson

**WDE:** Brent Bacon, Shelley Hamel, Jed Cicarelli, **Kim Morrow**, **Laurel Ballard,** **Robin Grandpre,** **Lori Thilmany**

**Guests:** Bob Jensen, Mary Billiter, Josh Daniels

**Agenda**

1. Updates
	1. Chapter 41 Virtual Education Rules Promulgated
	2. Computer Science Costs Visits
		1. Statutory Changes in Computer Science Education
	3. June JEIC Meeting [Agenda](https://www.wyoleg.gov/InterimCommittee/2018/04-20180606AgendaPreview.pdf)
	4. STAR Conference June 19-22 in Riverton
	5. Virtual 307 [Site](https://virtual307.com/) and Training
	6. 2018-19 Distance Education Grant
2. Revision and Review
	1. Statement of Concern Form
	2. [C](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gJYKnGT3VjPjnCFYeIbrqiEn9pRes8-j4Y2wCLp5kFI/edit?usp=sharing)riteria for PTSB approved virtual education workshops
3. Communication Efforts
	1. WDE638 Course Inventory and SIS updates
	2. VE Course approvals
	3. Teacher certification

**Notes**

**Updates**

* Chapter 41 Rules
	+ Rules are promulgated! Congrats on all your hard work!
* Computer Science Cost Visits
	+ The WDE is going to visit every district, not just those that are currently offering CS
	+ Standards team have been on several with Laurel
		- We need to define computer science - standards team is going to look at defining this while developing standards
		- ISTE has sent out new revised computer science standards
			* Laurel can share this with anyone who is interested
	+ These visits have been very helpful and have given us some great insights
	+ There is not the same understanding of what computer science is and what the legislation requires. A document has been developed to help reach a common understanding.
* JEIC - June 6-7, 2018 in Lander
	+ VE is on the agenda.
		- What is considered full-time
		- Subgroup reporting on VE vs. non-VE (participation rates, growth, equity, and assessment results)
			* This information has been helpful to help better inform schools and to be able to make curriculum or PD adjustments, as needed to help improve student outcomes.
			* Graduation rates will not be available for VE until spring of 2019 for the current graduating cohort.
			* Sometimes virtual programs are seen as alternative schools, but this is not the case as VE can sometime be more difficult.
			* Kate has lessons learned that she is happy to share.
* STAR Conference
	+ WDE hosting June 19-22 in Riverton
	+ Federal Programs holds to update districts on all Federal requirements
	+ This will be the launch of Virtual 307 (currently soft launched)
* Virtual 307
	+ We will start training district on using this site.
	+ 2018-19 course collection will begin July 2 with the opening of the WDE638 Collection
* 2018-19 Distance Education Grant
	+ Request for proposals will be released next month
	+ Only those districts can apply who have approved VE programs
	+ $200,000 is available this cycle

**Revision and Review**

* Statement of Concern
	+ We will change “harm” to “impacts” for how the matter is affecting students, staff and/or districts.
	+ Lori added additional information about historical data about how PD can be considered VE training for PTSB credit.
		- There is some concern about VE teachers having to get trained every year when regular teachers do not have to do this every year. This may prevent teachers from wanting to get involved with VE.
			* Shannon mentioned that there is a requirement at her district to complete the 7 hours of PD in the first year but then it changes into a PLC type model. However, all teachers continue training specific to virtual education each year.
			* We can maybe make a change to only require this for the teacher’s first five years. We have to research to see if this can be added into policy or if we have to change the rules.

**Communication Efforts**

* Classes are currently submitted through the WDE638 - virtual education will be a part of this collection.
	+ PowerSchool and Infinite Campus are going to make changes in their systems to include VE as a flag for the reporting.
* Syllabi will be submitted in the same manner as they are now. In the future, the Hathaway Application for course approvals will be utilized for virtual education syllabi but won’t be available until 2019.
* There is still some confusion about teachers being Wyoming certified.
* How do we communicate this information out?
	+ Curriculum directors try to send this information to the right people.
	+ Have some of the information pre-recorded and have this available to send out to all administrators in the districts
	+ We can communicate with the districts that currently have VE programs. We are specifically worried about those that don’t currently have programs.
	+ Infographic to describe how funding works (including partial ADM examples).
		- Ex. What happens if a junior takes one Spanish online but the rest at the school? What if it takes the student more/less than the semester to complete a class? More specific examples for part-time.
		- Information is available but we may need to add it to Virtual 307. Chapter 8 and FAQ in guidebook could also help.
	+ Additional guidance documents or add information into policy.
	+ A generalized MOU might be helpful for school districts
	+ Building a reference guide for VE participation with situations outlined in this meeting
		- Kim will start putting this together for WDE600 reporting
	+ It helps when districts have examples from other districts to follow
		- Innovations conference panel sessions
		- Record or stream during the conference
		- Create a standing call/webinar
		- Post to Google Communities like [Wyoming Digital Learning](https://plus.google.com/communities/106592523950765266125)
		- Maybe something like the Infinite Campus Monthly Calls which is more technical assistance related
		- Start the monthly webinars in late May (preferred) and early June
		- In the beginning populate people’s calendars
		- Pick a regular recurring date

**Course Syllabus Concerns**

* Frustrated by having to add all of the benchmarks - adding extra work that doesn’t necessarily add benefits
	+ Very time consuming
* This is not required for Hathaway and brick & mortar
* The form itself is not the problem
* Put together a meeting with standards team to find a way to simplify the course syllabus review process
* The heavy lift may turn new districts off from being willing to offer virtual education courses

**Action Items**

* Create a monthly call to provide information and technical assistance to districts regarding virtual education
* Put together a meeting with standards team to find a way to simplify the course syllabus review process