Committee Charge for 2015-16:

Examine data relevant to the 16 Career Clusters (current courses and enrollments, workforce development needs, industry credentials, and student career interest surveys) and make recommendations for changes to Career and Technical (CTE) curriculum, course offerings, and student’s work-based learning experiences that they better align with Northern Virginia’s current and future economy.

Committee Recommendations

Support continued expansion of existing Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) K-12 programs to connect to existing and future CTE programs.

FCPS continues to support STEAM expansion at elementary, middle, and high school levels. An integrated science, mathematics, and engineering program is opening at Edison High School for the 2016-17 school year. The program is part of the High School Innovation Grant from the Virginia Department Of Education and will serve as a model for developing similar programs.

Support continued expansion of the health and medical course offerings to address the growing demand for employees at all levels in the health care field.

The Health and Medical Programs have seen growth in enrollment for the 2016-17 school year. A Fire Science course is opening at the Fire Training Academy and the Emergency Medical Technician program is expanding to a second site at West Potomac High School. In addition, implementation of a 911 dispatch training program is being explored. The school system is working with the Claude Moore Foundation on grants to implement a health informatics, medical billing and coding, and patient care technician program.

Support professional development and training of teachers for integrated math, science, and engineering instruction, and for maintaining currency with newer developments in the healthcare fields.

Professional development opportunities in integrated problem/project based learning were held several times during the summer. Elementary, middle, and high school teachers were able to spend time developing lessons to be shared throughout the county. In addition, several courses in integration are held throughout the year as part of the Teacher Professional Development Academy. Teachers from all aspects of the Health and Medical Sciences program attended professional development courses at the Health and Medical Sciences summer institute.
Support continued expansion of Cyber Security and Computer Programming/Coding offerings. Include expansion of the Cyber Patriot programs at the middle and high school levels, coding activities and infusion at the elementary school level, and a review of the coding pathway for students at the middle and high school levels.

Working with the Fairfax County Education Foundation, ten middle schools will begin implementing Cyber Patriot programs over the next two years with plans to expand the program should additional funding be secured. Middle school courses are being updated to emphasize coding and the high school CTE programming teachers attended training to implement additional game programming. Continuing the partnership with the Fairfax Education Foundation, a grant was written to explore funding streams for expansion of Cyber/IT programs. In addition, a coding professional development was held for elementary teachers and school based technology specialists in collaboration with Code.org. Additional training will be held to assist with the implementation of the Hour of Code program at all schools.

Investigate and communicate multiple pathways to fulfill graduation requirements for students that could include workplace based learning opportunities and integration of programs such as Genesys Works (now working in partnership with FCPS).

A pathways proposal has been developed for presentation to the FCPS School Board. Working with the proposed draft framework from the VDOE, FCPS staff has begun to develop a variety of pathways that will lead to graduation. The increased flexibility of graduation requirements will be monitored as the state develops the final proposal for the multiple pathways to graduation implementation in 2018. A strong component of the proposals will be expanding workplace based learning and opportunities to substitute graduation requirements with relevant workforce development courses.

Monitor and advocate legislative initiatives at the state and national level that impact CTE. One goal is to secure graduation credits for CTE courses that share equal rigorous content as traditional mathematics and science courses.

FCPS continues to monitor changes at the state level through the legislative office. The pathways to graduation project at the state level is being monitored closely for potential input and impact to FCPS programs and the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Continue to promote CTEAC recommendations favorably accepted by FCPS that were offered in recent years.