

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Filling the Void

TARGET: TO RE-INTRODUCE TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL EDUCATION FOR BERMUDIANS TO ENSURE THEY ARE ABLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

- To start a technical/vocational school, initially for fourteen to eighteen-year-olds, whilst operating advanced evening classes for alumni and others
- To use industry participation for board members and selection committees
- To re-introduce “soft skills”, high academic content, longer school day, career path and career choices and a five term year
- To ensure Bermudians leave high school with a meaningful international qualification, career path, work experience and a job or higher education

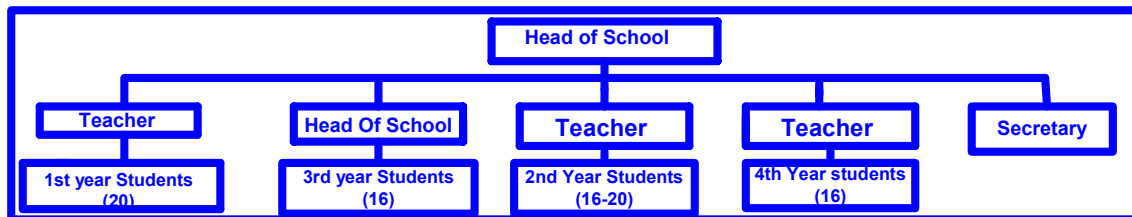
Technical expertise is essential to initiate, improve, maintain, a prosperous community, and the need for homegrown technical talent in Bermuda has never been greater. Technical/vocational education demands high standards, builds self-esteem, respect, character and is appealing to our males presently failing education.

Surveys carried out during the past ten years have shown local companies desire to hire local, if qualified, to participate in and contribute to meaningful programmes. Colin Palmer, an engineer and educator, has spent the past ten years researching education in Bermuda and the World, surveying local companies technical needs and has written a book on his findings in 2006. He is soliciting support

Because technical and vocational education are critical to the prosperity of any society, that persons are invited to donate a building or funds to a trust fund to be set up for a school building to ensure technical education for future generations of Bermudians.

An initial 5,000 square feet is required with expansion to over 10,000 square feet which would include a workshop, further land for recreational purposes would be an asset.

Organization Chart in first four years



FINANCIAL

This whole proposal is based upon the donation of, or purchasing of a building put in trust for Technical Education. Once a building has been identified, the school plan is financially viable, a proposed profit and loss statement has been produced from known costs allowing some wiggle room for ever increasing energy costs, and a detailed capital expenditure statement for the first four years. Operating and maintenance expenses have been carefully identified and it is found that there would be enough to allow for equipping the workshop.

STATUS

Research and surveys have been completed over the past ten years; major air-conditioning and industry members have been surveyed and would be active participants in this programme to facilitate the practical portion. The international qualification has been researched for content and applicability – acquiring the rights is not seen as prohibitive. Once a building has been made ready, advertising for students would take less than three months. The school could be operating four months after the completion of the building.

ACTION

Colin Palmer to present the proposal to potential donors

Colin Palmer June 2008