

**CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD  
Hartford, CT**

**Minutes  
Subcommittee on Quality and Policy Meeting  
October 16, 2019**

**Draft**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (hereafter "Board") met on October 16, 2019 at A.I. Prince Technical High School, 401 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Eichstaedt called the meeting to order at 8:36am.

Present: Robert Trefry, Board Member  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Board Member  
Karen Eichstaedt, Board Member  
Lindy Lee Gold, Board Member  
Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

Absent: Commissioner Kurt Westby, Board Member  
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Board Member  
Fitz Walker, Board Member

**II. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**III. Consideration of Minutes**

**A. September 18, 2019, Subcommittee on Quality and Policy Meeting**

Ms. Keavney – Maruca moved, Mr. Trefry seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the September 18, 2019, Subcommittee on Quality and Policy Meeting.

Vote: In Favor: Eichstaedt, Gold, Keavney-Maruca, Trefry  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: De Filippis, Walker, Westby

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)**

##### **A. SAT Scores**

Ms. Karen Eichstaedt introduced CTECS Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Nikitoula Menounos, CTECS Education Consultant Mx. Alex Pitsas, and CTECS Supervisor of Literacy and Humanities, Dr. Darcy Fiano to the committee members who shared an overview of where the districts is for math requirements, SAT scoring, and the districts direction in the future.

Mx. Pitsas walked the committee members through the goals and data charts that were provided in their packets. Information in the charts included the Cohort Data, Trend Data Met/Exceed Benchmark, Class of 2020 Advanced Learners Chart A., Level of Difficulty, Areas of Math, and the Percent Correct.

Mx. Pitsas reviewed the effects advanced and honors algebra curriculum requirements have on student's preparedness for the SAT with committee members. Mx. Pitsas also shared his thoughts on the barriers the algebra requirements create in providing accesses to high-level math.

##### Questions/Discussion included:

*Mr. Wihbey requested the Match Cohort Data and Instructional Trends data in the future.*

*Mr. Trefry requested clarification on the benchmark, and how it is determined.*

*Mr. Wihbey suggested a look into math teacher vacancies, and its effect on SAT scoring outcomes.*

*Mr. Trefry suggested summer group camps for math and algebra.*

*Dr. Menounos shared her thoughts on adding an accountability program to the extended day program to ensure appropriate levels of intervention. A forward-thinking approach to teaching math.*

*Ms. Eichstaedt emphasized intervention on a persona level to engage and motivate student learning.*

*The Committee agreed that the district must be strategic to ensure student success on the SAT.*

A copy of all handouts are included in the official file of this meeting.

## **B. District Literacy Goals**

Mr. Wihbey introduced CTECS Supervisor of Literacy and Humanities, Dr. Darcy Fiano to the committee members who shared an overview of where the districts is headed for literacy goals.

Dr. Fiano began her presentation with a review of the District Improvement Plan for 2019-2020 Academic Goals.

A few highlights:

- By spring 2020, 50% of students will be at or above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on STAR Reading.
- By spring 2020, 50% of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade SAT test takers will be at or above the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) Benchmark (480) on the CT School Day SAT.
- By fall 2019, 50% of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT test takers will meet or exceed the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) Benchmark (430) on the Fall SAT.
- By fall 2019, 50% of the 11<sup>th</sup> grade PSAT/NMSQT test takers will meet or exceed the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) Benchmark (460) on the Fall SAT.

Dr. Fiano also walked through CTECS Benchmark trends vs. the State of Connecticut trends.

She reviewed the creation of district repositories to establish consistency and access across the district.

She reviewed the following strategies:

- Intentional Planning (Intentional, Reflective and Responsive)
- Segmenting the Instructional Block
- Clear Task Parameters
- Higher-level Cognitive Questioning.

An overall focus on strategies that are engaging to secure buy-in from the students.

Questions/Discussion included:

*Mr. Trefry asked if the listed strategies apply to fiction readings.*

*Ms. Keavney – Maruca asked about a curriculum database, which houses sample readings and sample questions.*

*Ms. Gold shared her thoughts on student knowledge in creating business plans, making a case for market research, and projections that can go across disciplines.*

The Committee members thanked Dr. Fiano, Dr. Menounos, and Mx. Pitsas for sharing valuable information.

A copy of all handouts are included in the official file of this meeting.

### **C. Vacancy Update**

Mr. Wihbey introduced CTECS Management Analyst, Joe Uccello to present the latest vacancy update report to committee members. Mr. Uccello shared full-time general fund position data as of October 2019 as follows: There currently are 191 vacancies – 107 of which are instructional – 84 remaining are made up of admin, food services, fiscal, clerical, plant, consultants, etc. In addition to the 191 vacancies, there are 22 on hold. Leaving 169 positions, and of those 169, OPM has authorized 77 positions. Of the 77 approved positions, 47 are instructional, 27 are academic, 15 are trade, and 5 are student support.

Mr. Uccello shared the annual salary for the 191 positions as \$13,672,861.00.

#### Questions/Discussion included:

*Mr. Wihbey shared there is an anticipated deficit. If CTECS were to fill all vacancies for July 1, the budget would be over 10 million dollar. Holding back some of the positions is necessary.*

*Ms. Eichstaedt inquired about a ranking system to prioritize position needs throughout the district.*

A copy of the Vacancy Report is included in the official file of this meeting.

### **V. Adjourn**

Ms. Keavney – Maruca moved, Ms. Gold seconded, for the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy Meeting to adjourn.

Vote:	In Favor:	Eichstaedt, Gold, Keavney-Maruca, Trefry
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	De Filippis, Walker, Westby

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Prepared by: Ms. Ronke Stallings, CTECS