

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

**Minutes
Full Board
November 20, 2019**

Draft

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (hereafter "Board") met on November 20, 2019 at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, 189 Fort Hill Road, Groton, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Robert Trefry called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

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

Dial in: Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Board Member
Commissioner Kurt Westby, Board Member

Absent: Fitz Walker, Board Member

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Welcome

Mr. Trefry welcomed Board members and guests and thanked Principal Feeney for her hospitality.

Principal Feeney gave a brief update on school activities and events. She highlighted the success of the move into the new facility. She shared the student's and staff's excitement to start the school year in their brand new school.

A. Students of Excellence Presentations

Principal Feeney introduced Senior Students, Chris Dow, Heating and Plumbing, and Topaz Baker, Automotive, and they presented PowerPoints on the work they learned in their trades, success and future plans after graduation.

The Board members were very impressed with their presentations, and thanked Principal Feeney and the students for sharing their work.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

V. Consent Agenda *(Any item may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member)*

A. Consideration of Minutes

October 16, 2019, Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) Board Meeting.

Ms. Gold moved, Ms. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board adopt the minutes of the October 16, 2019, CTECS Board Meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Discussion

A. CTECS Foundation

Mr. Wihbey reviewed discussions on the on-going idea to re-establish a CTECS Foundation. Discussions with business industry members throughout the state, and Board Chair Trefry have nurtured the need for a CTECS Foundation to support the operations of the district.

Purpose - raise funds for the following:

- Inducting new trades teachers
- Support professional development needs
- Provide grants for teacher internships
- Support material and equipment needs
- Support families and students in need

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. Wihbey shared the foundation will be an ongoing project.

Ms. Gold shared the New Haven Public Schools has a Foundation and Mr. Wihbey should join.

Dr. De Filippis shared some advantages the Foundation could provide for a large district. Ex. Scholarships, grants, and other resources.

Ms. Eichstaedt shared her thoughts on getting into the middle schools for workforce development.

B. Advocacy Agenda

Mr. Wihbey shared the CTECS Strategic Operating Plan indicates the need for advocacy agenda items each year. He referred to legislation and the 1076-Q bill, which deems students unable to participate in technical schools because of high needs. Mr. Wihbey wants to ensure that as many people as possible participate in CTECS programs, but it is vital resources are available to support student's needs. Mr. Wihbey shared LEA school district cost sharing options need to be explored.

Mr. Wihbey continued the discussion with ideas of legislative clarity for retirees to come back and substitute in the trade and technical areas. With the anticipated silver tsunami of 2022, the district needs to be in front of the mass exit of staff. Mr. Wihbey shared, in order to provide the highest level of programming to student, it is vital to have certified teachers in the classroom. Retirees must be given the opportunity to return.

New legislation for the world language requirement will cost about 6 million dollars over the course of four years in order to staff the classrooms for the additional one credit.

Questions/Discussion included:

Ms. Keavney-Maruca shared her experience in special education and the need for appropriate resources and supports for students with high needs, in order for complete success in the technical schools curricula.

Ms. Keavney-Maruca shared her thoughts on long distance learning options.

Ms. Gold shared her thoughts on ESL classes being embedded in trade courses.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy – Ms. Karen Eichstaedt

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on November 20, 2019 just prior to today's CTECS Board meeting. The committee held discussions on the School Construction Update, Separation Committee Update, and Vacancy Update.

B. Outreach and Finance – Ms. Patricia Keavney-Maruca

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on November 20, 2019 just prior to today's CTECS Board meeting. The committee held discussions on the CTECS Foundation, Expenditure and Revenue Report, and Pell Grants.

Questions/Discussion included:

Ms. Gold urged conversations with DAS regarding school construction and excess property.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

A. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wihbey shared an overview of his report.

A few highlights:

- On November 14, 2019, the CSDE sponsored the "Connecticut Student Attendance Symposium II: A Showcase of Promising Practices, Strategies and Success in Reducing Chronic Absence." In 2018-19, CTECS reduced its chronic absence rate from 12.9 to 9.9 percent.
- Superintendent Wihbey accepted an invitation to join Governor Lamont's Workforce Council.
- Mr. Wihbey attended the District Management Group's conference, Transforming Your Human Capital Strategy to Achieve Equity and Excellence to learn strategies for effective teacher recruitment, hiring, training, and developing high-potential leaders.
- Mr. Wihbey met with the Superintendent of Waterbury Public Schools to discuss manufacturing pathways for students.
- Vinal Technical High School's Criminal Justice and Protective Services program will hold a ribbon cutting for their first-of-its-kind Emergency Operations center on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 9:00am.
- Hired a second staff attorney, Ms. Gwaina Wauldon.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. Trefry shared his enthusiasm for the systems achievements in such a short amount of time.

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

B. Separation Timeline

Ms. Scott shared the Separation Committee consists of internal CTECS staff, and the committee held its first meeting.

A few obstacles:

- The current consolidation of DAS and OLR for Human Resources - affects all aspects (Affirmative Action, HR, Payroll, Hiring and Onboarding, and Labor Relations)
- Staffing – looking into other agencies organizational charts to see what CTECS may need to incorporate as a separate entity.
- Office Space - as more employees are hired space is limited.
- Collective bargaining unit contract negotiations for administrators and teachers
- 2020 silver tsunami – a large number of potential retirements.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. Wihbey reiterated the separation committee will continue to keep the board updated.

C. New Staff Attorney

Mr. Wihbey introduces Ms. Gwaina Wauldon, the new CTECS Staff Attorney to the Board. Ms. Wauldon joins CTECS from the University of Hartford, where she was the Executive Director for Equal Opportunity Programs and Title IX Compliance. A native of Buffalo, New York, Gwaina earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Connecticut, School of Law, where she served as Administrative Editor of the Connecticut Insurance Law Journal. Gwaina was the winner of the Alva P. Loiselle Moot Court Competition and was a member of the Moot Court Board. Gwaina holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Buffalo State College and a bachelor's degree from the University of Buffalo. Gwaina is licensed to practice law in Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey.

Questions/Discussion included:

Board Member joined Mr. Wihbey in welcoming Ms. Wauldon to the CTECS team.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry gave board members an update on the status of recruitment for additional Board members. He shared there are nominations pending at the Governor office.

There are currently four position vacant.

X. Adjourn

Mr. Trefry moved, Ms. Gold seconded, for the Board Meeting to adjourn.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Prepared by: Ms. Ronke Stallings, CTECS