

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting May 19, 2015

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on May 19, 2015, at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, New Britain, CT.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mr. John Barrasso
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Commissioner Catherine Smith
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Mr. Stephan Bundschu
Mr. Matthew Nemerson
Commissioner Sharon Palmer

Mr. Trefry thanked Principal Daniel Mello, Principal, for hosting the Board meeting and the students who assisted with the tour of the school. Mr. Trefry also thanked the Chef Rheiner and his culinary students for preparing a wonderful lunch and desserts. Mr. Mello thanked the Board members for their support. Mr. Mello introduced, two students: Cindy Pena – 12th grade Manufacturing Technology and Tyler Pettway – 12th grade CADD who spoke about their background, their experience at E.C. Goodwin and their post-graduation plans.

II. Public Participation

Ms. Loris Omidwar a parent of a former E.C. Goodwin Technical High School spoke to the board about the first robotics program (co-curricular activity) and its success at the school and benefits to her child.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

IV. Executive Session

The Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent. Present in Executive Session were Mr. Trefry, Mr. Barrasso, Ms. Keavney-Maruca, Ms. Eichstaedt, Mr. Walker, Commissioner Smith, and Superintendent Torres.

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Ms. Eichstaedt the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Public Session at 1:50 p.m., and to consider a motion at this time to vote on the recommendation to the CTHSS Board a candidate for appointment as Assistant Superintendent.

Recommendation to the CTHSS Board Concerning a Candidate for Appointment as Assistant Superintendent

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Mr. Barrasso moved, the CTHSS Board support the appointment of Tracy Goodell-Pelletier, Assistant Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, effective May 1, 2015.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Smith, Trefry, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Bundschu, Nemerson, Palmer

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Consideration of Minutes

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the March 17, 2015 and April 21, 2015 meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Smith, Trefry, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Bundschu, Nemerson, Palmer

Mr. Trefry called for a motion to consider agenda item VII. Items for Action, at this time. Mr. Barrasso moved, Ms. Eichstaedt seconded, that the board consider agenda item VII. Items for Action at this time.

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Educator Evaluation and Support Plan

Goal #4 of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan is to invest in the development of faculty and staff to support the system’s core mission. The Framework for Success, item 4.3 is to implement a teacher evaluation and support program to increase educator effectiveness and student achievement. CTHSS has adopted the “Learning focused supervision continuum model”, created by Laura Lipton and Bruce Wellman (2013). This continuum serves as a model for collaboration and collegiality that leads to professional growth.

At the April 10, 2015 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting, Dr. St. Onge provided an update to the Committee members on the Teacher Evaluation Implementation. Each year school districts are required to submit their educator evaluation and support plan to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Bureau of Educator Effectiveness and Professional Learning. Each year, the CTHSS is required to submit updates to our plan. A summary of the changes include: an emphasis on professional learning and training for all teachers and administrators in particular, new teachers and administrators and the development of an alternative evaluation continuum for teachers hired after November 15th goal setting conference deadline and updating the framework for teaching (Danielson, 2013) evaluation rubric to incorporate the Common Core State Standards.

The Plan represents the collaborative work done by CTHSS administrators and the teacher’s union.

At the May 8, 2015, Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy, the committee members met and agreed unanimously to recommend to the CTHSS Board the approval of the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan.

It is recommended that the Board approve the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, pursuant to Public Act 12-116, as amended by P.A. 12-2 of May 19, 2015, approves the Connecticut Technical High Schools (CTHSS) Evaluation and Support Plan as the teacher and administrator evaluation model starting in the 2015-2016 school year and meets the recommended Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) guideline requirements as a LEA-developed plan and directs the Superintendent to take the necessary action.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Smith, Trefry, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Bundschu, Nemerson, Palmer

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Rolling Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan 2016-2020

Superintendent Torres reported that at the May 19, 2015 Subcommittee meeting on Outreach and Finance, the committee members met and agreed unanimously to recommend to the CTHSS Board the approval of the Rolling Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan 2016-20. It is recommended that the Board approve this plan.

Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. James Chasse Education Consultant to the Board members who reviewed the district's statutorily required Rolling Capital Plan for fiscal year's 2016-2020.

The CTHSS has a statutory obligation to produce an annual Five-Year Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan. This year's plan – which covers fiscal years 2016 – 2020 – requests that the State continue to invest in the revitalization and rebranding of the district. This report is just one of several that the district prepares in highlighting the district's financial needs.

Mr. Chasse reported that last fall, the CTHSS Board approved Superintendent Torres' Operating and Capital Budget Request for FY 2016 and FY 2017. The Capital Budget Request identified the need for approximately \$20M in new capital funding over the biennium. In February, the Governor released his recommended Capital Budget which included \$12M in new capital funding for the CTHSS during the biennium. In anticipation of legislative approval of the Governor's Recommended Capital Budget, Superintendent Torres has taken action to reprioritize the district's capital plans. The CTHSS has more than \$46M available in previously authorized bond authorizations that generally are awaiting completion of design work and determination of construction costs before a bond request can be submitted to OPM for State Bond Commission consideration.

Mr. Chasse also provided an update on the district's school construction and renovation projects. School construction projects continue at Eli Whitney – Hamden (75% complete) and Emmett O'Brien – Ansonia (35% complete). Completion of these two projects will bring the total number of schools renovated or constructed to twelve (12). Two additional projects – Ella T. Grasso – Groton and Platt – Milford – are currently in design and three projects – Oliver Wolcott, Windham and Vinal – are awaiting legislative approval of DAS' School Building Project Priority List which will provide additional funding for these projects.

Mr. Chasse reported that the State has a goal of reducing energy consumption in all state buildings by 20% by 2018. As you will hear about in greater detail next month in a presentation from Assistant Superintendent Jeff Wihbey, the district has begun work with the Institute for Sustainable Energy (ISE) and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to identify potential projects.

In the spring the district was awarded a School Security Grant of approximately \$700,000. There are currently 25 different projects going on in the schools ranging from new doors to lock system upgrades, to installation of additional security cameras and monitoring equipment.

The proposed Rolling Capital Plan requests a total of \$46M in new capital funding over the next five (5) years to enabled continued investment in trade and academic equipment, technology, vehicles and for agency-administered infrastructure projects including energy efficiency upgrades.

While past Rolling Capital Plans were more reflective of a generalization of needs, Superintendent Torres is requesting more specificity in future reports. Therefore, the next step in the planning process is to update the standardized equipment lists (SELs) that exist for each of the programs to reflect newer equipment needs driven by the paradigm shift. Thus, the district will be working over the next six (6) to nine (9) months to update the SELs to better reflect the educational equipment needs of the district. Hence, this year's version of the Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan does not provide a breakdown of the district's equipment needs by school or by program. By completing the SEL update, coupled with an analysis of current equipment asset levels, a truer reflection of the needs will be presented next fiscal year.

It was also noted, that the district submitted a legislative request to reduce the reporting period for future Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plans from an annual five-year plan to an annual three-year plan. Senate Bill #1057 is currently awaiting final legislative approval.

Ms. Eichstaedt moved, Ms. Keavney seconded, that the Board approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan for 2016-2020, and recommends approval to the State Board of Education at their June 3, 2015, meeting.

Vote:	In Favor:	Barrasso, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Smith, Trefry, Walker
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Bundschu, Nemerson, Palmer

A copy of the Rolling Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan 2016-2020 report is included in the official file of this meeting.

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Graduation Celebrations

As the year comes to a close, the CTHSS is getting ready for graduation season. All Board members are cordially invited to attend.

Strategic Plan Update

There will be an update at the June 10, 2015 CTHSS Board meeting of the Strategic Action Plan.

American Culinary Federation Education Foundation (ACFEF)

At the November 14, 2014 Outreach and Finance Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Hussey, Education Consultant walked the Committee members through the ACFEF process. Superintendent Torres announced that by this coming summer we will have seven culinary programs accredited of this noteworthy distinction. Normally, this type of accreditation is reserved for community colleges.

Announcement - Marc Hussey, Education Consultant

Superintendent Torres announced that Mr. Hussey's last day was May 15, 2015. Mr. Hussey was committed to district and aside from the culinary programs, he coordinated the trade technology advisory committees and the trade reauthorization for the district.

Connecticut's Eighth E-House Opens at W.F. Kaynor Technical High School

This morning, the CTHSS celebrated the eighth ribbon cutting of the E-house at W.F Kaynor Technical High School in Waterbury, CT.

Manufacturing News – Platt Technical High School

On May 19, 2015, 24 Platt Technical High School students from the Manufacturing CADD, competed in the Bright Minds Challenge at New England's premier manufacturing exposition. Platt Technical High School's teams won first and second place in the Lean Shop floor design contest. Additionally, another team from Platt won second place in the reverse engineering contest.

CTHSS & CT SkillsUSA Host Second Annual Career Days

On April 22-23, 2015, the CTHSS in partnership with CT SkillsUSA, hosted the second annual CTHSS career days. Over 800 CTHSS students and their teachers, career counselors and administrators were able to take a look at what organized labor has to offer and discover the growth of Connecticut's construction work force.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Outstanding Art Educator Award Recognition – Adrienne Kiel

The Board members recognized Adrienne Kiel, Goodwin Technical High School's Art Instructor who received the Outstanding Art Educator Award on April 26, 2015. The Connecticut Art Education Association gives the award to Art Teacher who:

1. increase public awareness of the importance of quality art programs for all Connecticut's children;
2. set standards for quality art education;
3. show how they can be achieved and
4. show our appreciation to individuals or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to art education.

Ms. Kiel was presented a plaque and took a photo with Commissioner Wentzell, Board Chairperson, Mr. Trefry, Superintendent Torres and Principal Mello.

B. Admissions Update

Goal #2 of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan states: "Create an alignment between K-12, Post-secondary and Adult Programs to provide a continuum of educational services resulting in readiness for career and college." Framework for Success Item #2.4 state: "Refine the district's admissions policy".

Superintendent Torres reported the CTHSS has been working with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) for close to two years regarding the admissions policy. This has been a voluntary exercise with the goal of creating a more equitable admissions process while at the same time offering more transparency to OCR about the CTHSS admissions process.

Early on in the 2014-15 school year, OCR recommended that the CTHSS seek the researcher services of a notable psychometrician in the field of admissions for Career and Technical Education programs. The district was fortunate to have Dr. Shaun Dougherty from UCONN come on board. Dr. Dougherty has been examining the longitudinal admissions data along with the CTHSS present applicant pool. Dr. Dougherty was not able to join today's board meeting. Superintendent Torres introduced Ms. Mazzonna who has been working closely with Dr. Dougherty and presented his findings of the 2014-2015 applicant pool. Ms. Mazzonna explained that the data is very fluid as schools are still conducting PPTs and admissions reviews. Overall, there is a considerable increase of the Special Education and Disabilities (SPED) applicant pool in comparison to the 2013-2014 SY.

Next steps include expanding the research study to include admissions data from 2009 and 2011 cohorts and revisiting the present admissions policy with the Quality and Policy subcommittee at their June 12, 2015 meeting.

Superintendent Torres introduced Cynthia Mischel, Education Consultant to the Board members. Ms. Mischel spoke to the Board about the partnership with the State Department of Education Colleagues and the joint memo sent from Superintendent Torres and SDE Special Ed Bureau Chief Rodriguez, to all Statewide Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services on the revised CTHSS school admissions process. Ms. Mischel provided a copy of this memo to the Board members. Ms. Michel spoke about the exercise and language in the letter and how it was helpful to our admissions process. Ms. Mischel also spoke about the CTHSS admissions process and why it is so significant. Ms. Mischel also shared with the Board members the outreach the CTHSS Special Education team is doing across the state in order to share the CTHSS programs.

Superintendent Torres introduced Beatrice Tinty, Education Consultant to the Board members who clarified where we are with the voluntary agreement with OCR. Ms. Tinty reported that the admissions letter has been approved by OCR and the voluntary resolution agreement has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General and Superintendent Torres. Ms. Tinty reported that the agreement mandates we communicate more with the middle schools and that we continue with the validation study with Dr. Dougherty in order to know what criteria is valid and define what is essential in the ninth grade curriculum—what skills a student needs to have. Ms. Tinty stated that OCR views this as a program issue rather than a discrimination issue.

The Board members engaged in a meaningful conversation on the admissions update. Superintendent Torres reminded the Board members that the admissions process is part of OCR oversight. A suggestion was made by the Board members to re-examine the language used in the notification to SPED students about their preliminary acceptance. The suggestion was to come up with something that does not get the student's and family's hopes up so much (maybe like going to the next state of the process instead of using the word acceptance). The change in language will be discussed with the office of civil rights for further guidance.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and the joint memo sent to all Statewide Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services on the revised CTHSS school admissions process is included in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported that the CTHSS Board continues to interview for possible replacement candidates to fill the board vacancies and hopeful we should have new members within two months.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that her committee met on May 8, 2015. The committee approved the Educator Evaluation and Support Plan and received an update on the mastery-based learning program for Mathematics using ALEKS.

B. Outreach and Finance

Mr. Barrasso reported that the committee met on March 17, 2015, just prior to today's Board meeting. The committee members discussed the budget and approved the Rolling Capital Improvement and Equipment Plan 2016-2020.

XI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XII. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Prepared by:

Diane Curtis

Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System