

**CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD**

**Draft Minutes of Meeting  
June 10, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on June 10, 2015, at 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson  
Mr. John Barrasso  
Mr. Stephan Bundschu  
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt  
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Commissioner Sharon Palmer  
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Mr. Matthew Nemerson  
Commissioner Catherine Smith

**II. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**III. Consent Agenda**

There were no items on the consent agenda.

**IV. Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

**V. Consideration of Minutes**

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the May19, 2015 meeting be approved.

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

**VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

Superintendent Torres shared with the board the first annual report of the CTHSS Strategic Plan-Tomorrow's Framework. As with the Strategic Plan, the annual report represents the collaborative efforts of the teacher, administrators and home office staff. Superintendent Torres has been providing regular updates and presentations during sub-committee meetings and full CTHSS Board meetings to give the Board members a better understanding of the progress made. Some examples shared were presentations on Green Careers, Mastery Based Learning, Literacy Growth Data and Admissions just to name a few. Superintendent Torres reminded the Board members that schools are still in session which means final exams have not been completed; therefore, the data presented today is not finalized. The report is a draft and all data along with recommendations for edits from the board will be completed by the end of the month and a final copy of the report will be issued to the board at the July 21, 2015 meeting.

Superintendent Torres walked the Board through Goals 1-4 of the Annual Report, Tomorrow's Framework and provided an update on each of the foundational imperatives for each of the goals: The four goals are as follows: 1. Enhanced Employer Engagement and Alignment with Industry Needs, 2. Alignment between K-12, Post-secondary and Adult Programs, 3. Flexibility, Responsiveness and Innovation, and 4. Professional Capital.

Superintendent Torres invited the following guests to speak to the Board so they can hear from the partners, teachers, consultants who were engaged in the framework.

Mr. Howard M. Jenkins, Manager of Human Resources and Training Coordinator for Electric Boat in Groton and Mr. John Murphy, CTHSS Education Consultant spoke on behalf of Goal #1 and the partnerships with Electric Boat and the CTHSS. They talked about the need for skilled employees and how important the CTHSS is in building the pipeline. The Board members thanked Mr. Jenkins for all of his efforts and for coming today to speak to the Board.

Ms. Barbara Mazzonna, and Mr. John Murphy, Education Consultants spoke on behalf of Goal #2 and the work around the afterschool programs. Ms. Mazzonna provided an update on the Career Pathways TECH Collaborative at Eli Whitney and New Haven Public Schools which include Weatherization/Carpentry, Plumbing and Heating and Manufacturing. Enrolled students are from various high schools and the adult education center in New Haven. Mr. Murphy provided an update on the CTHSS partnerships with the Community Colleges. Mr. Murphy shared a document on the collaboration between the CTHSS and the Board of Regents regarding the facilities use of precision machining labs in many of our schools.

Ms. Sandy Frayler, Director of Account Services and Steve Latronica, Director of Interactive Deve of the Pita Group, and Ms. Sandi Casberg spoke to the Board members on behalf of Goal #3 and the work of website development and marketing efforts. The Pita Group, a marketing business partner presented the CTHSS demo website that will be officially launched in July, 2015.

Mr. Paul Bazzanno, Oliver Wolcott THS Physical Education/Health Instructor and Committee member of the District-wide Evaluation and Professional Development Committee spoke on behalf of Goal #4. Mr. Bazzanno presented an overview to the Board members on the District's Evaluation and Professional Development Committee. He shared the success of the committee and the accomplishments of the goal. The Board members thanked Mr. Bazzanno for his courage in highlighting the teacher perspective.

Superintendent Torres shared information related to page 25 of Tomorrow's Framework and the metrics related to the district's definition of life ready. When the CTHSS looks at work ready, Superintendent Torres shared the number of students participating in a work-based learning program, and the number of students obtaining one or more credentials in grades 9-12 and adults. Superintendent Torres also shared a chart on the number of students trained in green technologies, the number of students participating in college career pathways including UCONN early college experience course offerings. The CTHSS is ahead of the nation in reading growth as measured by the STAR assessment. Superintendent Torres shared the STAR student growth reading results from Spring 2013 – Spring 2015.

Lastly, Superintendent Torres shared a video clip of the CTHSS year in view 2014-15.

Superintendent Torres welcomed the Board's feedback and suggestions. Due to time constraints, Mr. Trefry requested the Board members submit their feedback in writing prior to June 30, 2015. The Board congratulated Superintendent Torres on a terrific job.

A copy of the Tomorrow's Framework Annual Report, Career Pathways TEC Collaborative brochure, and the CTHSS and Community Colleges/Board of Regents Collaboration Handouts are included in the official file of this meeting.

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

**A. 2016 CTHSS Board Schedule**

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, approves the 2016 meeting schedule as follows:

- Tuesday, January 19, 2016
- Tuesday, February 16, 2016
- Tuesday, March 15, 2016
- Tuesday, April 19, 2016
- Tuesday, May 17, 2016
- Tuesday, June 21, 2016
- Tuesday, July 19, 2016
- Tuesday, August 16, 2016 (If needed)
- Tuesday, September 20, 2016
- Tuesday, October 18, 2016
- Tuesday, November 15, 2016
- Tuesday, December 13, 2016

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Election of the Vice Chairperson**

Mr. Trefry asked for nominations for a Vice Chair of the Technical High School System Board. The Board members recommended Patricia Keavney-Maruca. No other nominations were received.

Mr. Barrasso moved, Mr. Bundschu seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 3 of Article 1 of its Bylaws, elects Patricia Keavney-Maruca as Vice-chairperson of the Technical High School System Board, to serve until a successor has been elected.

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

**C. Admissions Policy**

There was discussion about the admission policy but no action was taken.

**VIII. Items for Discussion**

**A. Annual Strategic Action Plan Update, 2014-15**

This item was discussed under Item VI. Report of the Superintendent.

**IX. Report of the Chair**

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

The Quality and Policy Committee met on June 10, 2015 and discussed the Admissions Policy.

**B. Outreach and Finance**

Mr. Barrasso reported that the Superintendent and her staff are working on the close out of the fiscal year by June 30, 2015 and that a fiscal update will be provided to the board at the July 21st meeting. The CTHSS Rolling Capital Plan was approved by the State Board of Education on June 3, 2015.

**XI. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**XII. Adjourn**

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:30 p.m.

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