

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Draft Minutes of Meeting
February 17, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on February 17, 2015, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mr. Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr., Vice Chairperson
Mr. John Barrasso
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Commissioner Sharon Palmer
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Mr. Stephan Bundschu
Mr. Matthew Nemerson
Mr. Fitz Walker

Mr. Trefry called for a motion to consider agenda item VIII.A. Items for Discussion, KBE Awards Presentation, at this time.

Ms. Vrabely moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the board consider agenda item VIII.A. Items for Discussion, KBE Awards Presentation at this time.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. KBE Awards Presentation (H.H. Ellis THS & J.M. Wright THS)

Superintendent Torres introduced to the Board members, KBE Building Corporation Vice President Antonio Mancini, Project Manager James Brenia, Marketing Director Jonelle Lawhorn, J.M. Wright Principal Joseph Tripodi, H.H. Ellis Principal Brian Mignault, DAS Construction Services Project Manager's John Cavacas and Rob Dexter. KBE presented two trophies to the CTHSS that recognized the design and construction of JM Wright Technical High School and the H.H. Ellis Technical High School.

The awards were given by the Connecticut Association of Builders and Contractors, a construction industry organization, at its annual Excellence in Construction Awards program this past January. The awards and recipients are as follows:

JM Wright – Award of Merit and People's Choice Award – recognizing KBE Building Corporation, Northeast Collaborative Architects, the State of CT DCS, and the State of CT Technical High School System.
Harvard Ellis – First Place – recognizing KBE Building Corporation, the S/L/A/M Collaborative, the State of CT DCS, and the State of CT Technical High School System.

Mr. Trefry called a motion at this time to express their appreciation for the leadership and support of Joseph J. Vrabely.

Mr. Barrasso moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board express their appreciation for the leadership and support of Joseph J. Vrabely to the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS). Throughout his tenure as member of the CTHSS Board, he has numerous contributions to the system that have led to improved outcomes for students. He has been a tireless advocate for the system and its programs.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Board Chairman Mr. Trefry presented a plaque in appreciation of Mr. Vrabely's contributions to the CTHSS and the Board. Board members shared a few words about Mr. Vrabely and thanked Mr. Vrabely for his outstanding service and leadership.

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 January 20, 2015 meeting be approved.

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

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

CTHSS Tech Students Compete in Regional CT SkillsUSA Competition

Hundreds of students from Connecticut Technical High Schools participated in the annual Connecticut SkillsUSA Regional competition on February 4, 2015 held at the Institute of Technology and Business Development in New Britain, Connecticut. The event is held each year to see which students will qualify in certain events for the Connecticut SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championship which will be held this year on March 27, 2015, at Wilcox Technical High School. The CTHSS is very proud of Anthony Vargas who is representing National SkillsUSA in Puerto Rico. Superintendent Torres invited Board members to attend the March 27, 2015 Skills Championship.

Three Connecticut Technical High Schools Make List of Best 100 High Schools in Connecticut

Three Connecticut Technical High Schools made the list of the Best 100 High Schools in Connecticut according to Niche.com. Kaynor, Platt and Norwich Technical High Schools were some of the best high schools in the state. A high ranking in Overall Experience generally indicates that:

- Students are very happy with their experiences in all aspects, including academics, teachers, health, safety, resources, facilities, extracurriculars, sports, and fitness;
- The school is an exceptional academic institution in terms of teachers, students, resources for learning, and student outcomes;

- The school is made up of a diverse population and fosters an accepting, positive school culture
- Students are actively involved in a variety of extracurriculars and sports the school offers.

Superintendent Torres stated how proud she is of Kaynor, Platt and Norwich Technical High Schools for making this top list.

Oliver Wolcott Technical High School Hosts Manufacturer’s Breakfast

On February 6, 2015 Oliver Wolcott THS hosted a breakfast with local manufacturers. Oliver Wolcott plans to open an after school manufacturing program in the Fall of 2015.

CBS 1080 AM Radio Program – Manufacturing Matters

On February 7, 2015, Superintendent Torres was a guest on Mr. Joseph Vrabely’s Saturday morning radio program to spread the word about *Tomorrow’s Framework*, the CTHSS Strategic Plan.

Governor Malloy Announces Proposal at Goodwin THS to Meet Increasing Demand for Residential Solar Energy and Grow Clean Energy Jobs

On February 10, 2015, at Goodwin THS, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that as part of the package of proposals he will introduce to the legislature later this month, he will sponsor legislation for a new residential solar incentive model designed to save ratepayers millions of dollars, create local jobs in the clean energy sector, and increase renewable energy in the state. Governor Malloy and visitors toured the E-House training facility at Goodwin Tech. The E-House training facility is where Electrical, Plumbing and Heating, and Carpentry students are being instructed on the installation and maintenance of the latest clean energy technologies. Governor Malloy was interviewed by a Skills USA student.

Kaynor THS Hosts Partnership Luncheon to Expand After School Manufacturing Programs

On February 11, 2015, Kaynor THS hosted a partnership luncheon in an effort to expand opportunities for an after school manufacturing program to open in the Fall of 2015. In attendance were Mayor O’Leary, Waterbury Superintendent Ouellette and the Workforce Investment Board Director, Ms. Awwad.

CT Tech Educates and Inspires Next Generation Techs

W.F. Kaynor and J.M. Wright Technical High School’s tech programs were featured in the January 12, 2015 HVACR Contractor’s Weekly Online News

VII. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VIII. Items for Discussion

B. Art Programs

Superintendent Torres introduced Goodwin Technical High School’s Art Instructor Adrienne Kiel and Ella T. Grasso Technical High School’s Art Instructor Joy Supples to the Board members who presented a PowerPoint presentation on the CTHSS Visual Art Program and the understanding as to why the visual arts matters. Their presentation included examples as to how visual art ties into the support of the CTHSS Mission, visual literacy innovation & technology skills, arts education and Connecticut Economic and Community Development, business, education reform, the connection to trades, common core and the arts, STEM, critical thinking, real world problem solving, communication collaboration, creativity, technology, culture and history connections and community engagements.

Ms. Kiel and Ms. Supples responded to questions the Board members raised about the arts program. Board members were invited to attend the annual art show at the Bushnell. A date will be forthcoming. Mr. Trefry thanked Ms. Kiel and Ms. Supples for coming out to present and commended them for a job well done.

C. Mastery-Based Learning

Superintendent Torres introduced Education Consultant, Dr. Barbara St. Onge and Kaynor Technical High School Principal David Telesca to the Board members. Dr. St. Onge presented a PowerPoint on mastery based learning and the benefits of mastery based learning. Dr. St. Onge also shared a video on the Elements of Mastery Based Learning and Improving Student Outcomes where Ms. Molly Heath, Burlington, VT’s High School’s Chemistry

teacher provides an example of Proficiency-Based learning which exemplifies the tenets of Mastery Based Learning whereby performance indicators are identified and students continue to work on a learning unit until the objectives of the unit are mastered before moving to new content. Mastery-based learning requires significant planning to reinforce content acquisition using textbooks as a resource, teacher-made PowerPoints, and the Internet. Some of the benefits of Mastery Based Learning are that it is a student-centered approach to learning content aligned with the Connecticut Core Standards and provides opportunities for immediate feedback or enrichment. New technologies provide a platform that supports the implementation of MBL. The district is presently exploring the MBL model in Math.

Mr. Telesca presented a PowerPoint on the Google classroom at Kaynor Tech, including the uses of Google in the classroom, advantages including work for absent students, organizational support, collaborative learning and paperless learning, the Google classroom initiation, shared expectations and challenges. Mr. Telesca shared a video on the Google Classroom 101 which showed an overview of how the tool works for teachers and students and set up classes, add students, create assignments and review student work.

Mr. Telesca responded to questions the Board members raised on Google in the classroom including personalized learning for students and teachers, skills over the summer and accessing books on line to name a few.

Superintendent Torres has requested that Kaynor and Wright Tech test pilot Google Classroom before we implement this in the district.

Mr. Trefry thanked Dr. St. Onge and Mr. Telesca for coming today to present and commended them for a job well done.

IX. Report of the Chair

There was no report of the Chair.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that her committee met on January 9, 2015. The committee received an update on the CTHSS Adult Health Programs and discussed the SDE report to the Joint Juvenile Planning Committee on suspensions and expulsions. They also discussed the recently released data on the statewide breakdown of student arrests.

B. Outreach and Finance

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met on January 20, 2015, just prior to today's Board meeting. The committee members continued their discussion on student enrollment in terms of diversity/ethnicity. Mr. Vrabely thanked both Mr. Trefry and Superintendent Torres for bringing this discussion to the Committee and requested we have this discussion with the full CTHSS Board at a future meeting.

XI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XII. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Diane Curtis

Prepared by:

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