

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Draft Minutes of Meeting
January 20, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on January 20, 2015, at Bullard-Havens Technical High School, 500 Palisade Avenue, Bridgeport, 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 thanked Dr. Hilliard, Assistant Principal of Bullard-Havens Technical High School, for hosting the Board meeting. Dr. Hilliard thanked the Board members on behalf of Principal Cavallaro, Administration and Staff for their support. Dr. Hilliard said a few words about Bullard-Havens and introduced two students, Justin Banks and Lataya Rose who shared their experience at Bullard-Havens and their post-secondary plans with the Board.

II. Public Participation

Rosanne Kellaher, Bullard-Havens Fashion Technology Department Head, expressed her concerns to the Board members about the closing of fashion technology.

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 December 16, 2014 meeting be approved.

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

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

Mr. Vrabely moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, that the board consider agenda item VIII.A. Items for Discussion at this time.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Admissions Pilot

Superintendent Torres reported that at the January 9, 2015 Quality and Policy meeting, the Committee members had a productive conversation on the Admissions Policy. Education Consultants Ms. Tinty and Ms. Mazzonna and Dr. Shaun M. Dougherty Assistant Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership at University of Connecticut were also present at that meeting. Over the past couple months, the CTHSS Team continued to work with Dr. Dougherty on the Admissions Policy and changes were made to the policy that were discussed with the Quality and Policy Committee and approved at their January 9, 2015 meeting as follows:

- a. The validity of subjective elements such as attendance, participation in clubs and activities, and reasons for wanting to attend CTHSS;
- b. Collection of math and reading grades in seventh and eighth grades only;
- c. Ranking of applicants high to low based on a total score of the elements that are to be included;
- d. Selection by rank until capacity is met with some deviation in order to achieve appropriate diversity in the entering class.

Superintendent Torres shared the following background with the Board members:

Since the mid-1970's, the CTHSS has followed a district policy and approval by SBE. There has always been a high ratio of applicants to building capacity which necessitates an equitable process. Back in 2010, the CTHSS Admissions Policy was the subject of review of the SBE and consensus was achieved regarding applicant information to be collected and scored; number of points to be assigned to each score; preparation of a ranked list based on total score and appointment of an advisory committee at each school to advise the principal on the manner in which the ranked list is used to select applicants.

Superintendent Torres introduced Dr. Shaun M. Dougherty, Assistant Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership at the University of Connecticut to the Board members. Dr. Dougherty presented to the Board members the results of the Admissions Validity Study and responded to questions during his presentation.

Superintendent Torres indicated that it is our intent to not have an admissions test this year and we will continue to collect data and actively look for an assessment that gauges aptitude.

After an in-depth discussion on the admissions policy, a motion was called to approve the options for a revised admissions policy with the following change:

An assessment is not required for this class, however a search will continue to identify an appropriate measure of aptitude for technology to replace the prior assessment for applicants for the September 2016 ninth grade entering class.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded that the CTHSS Board approve that the applicants to the September 2015 ninth grade class will submit:

- A record of previous (7th grade) and current (8th grade) attendance;
- A transcript of previous (7th grade) and current (8th grade) grades;
- A written statement by the applicant regarding reasons to attend a technical high school; and
- Evidence of extra-curricular activities or community service.

An assessment is not required for this class; however, a search will continue to identify an appropriate measure of aptitude for technology to replace the prior assessment for applicants for the September 2016 ninth grade entering class.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of The Effect of Altering the CTHSS Admissions Process presentation and executive summary is included in the official file of this meeting.

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

CT Tech High School Students Selected as Winners in Connecticut Department of Labor' Young Workers Calendar Contest

Students' art work from several Connecticut Technical High Schools was selected to be part of the Connecticut Department of Labor's 2015 Young Workers Calendar. Winners were chosen for the creativity of their work and the effectiveness of conveying health and safety practices to help teens and other workers avoid hazards in their workplaces. Contest winners received \$130, and their school and name are featured in a statewide calendar to promote young worker health and safety awareness in Connecticut (see calendar). Superintendent Torres shared the calendars that were distributed to teens, parents, teachers, trade union patrons and sponsors, and other health and safety professionals throughout Connecticut.

7th E-House Grand Opening Celebrated at Abbott Tech

The grand opening of the new E-House at Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury, Connecticut was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2014. The E-House project is part of the state's technical high school system's 'green' approach to provide clean energy curriculum and hands-on experience for its architectural, carpentry, electrical, HVAC, plumbing and heating departments' faculty and students and is supported by Energize Connecticut and is jointly administered by Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and the United Illuminating Company (UI). This is the seventh E-House to be completed by students and staff at the Connecticut Technical High Schools. Several more are being constructed with the goal of having one at each of the state's Technical High Schools.

Marketing Efforts

Marketing and outreach efforts continue. On January 8, 2015, Superintendent was a guest on Radio Crumbre's evening radio program in Bridgeport, CT where evening listeners are of parent/guardian audience. The owner of the radio station was very impressed with our state-of-the-art programs at both Cheney and Prince Tech.

Mr. Vrabely announced that Superintendent Torres will be a guest on his WTIC AM radio program on February 7, 2015 from 8:00 – 9:00 AM. The Board members requested a reminder be sent out on this.

Grasso Tech and Electric Boat Establish Partnership

Representatives from Electric Boat in Groton and the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) met together on January 14, 2015 to begin an important partnership in which the CTHSS will provide workforce training for future job openings at Electric Boat. Plans were shown to Electric Boat staff members for a Welding and Metal Fabrication facility that will be in place at Grasso Tech during the next school year to train adults for possible jobs with Electric Boat. This first meeting was a working lunch.

Goodwin THS Afterschool Program

Superintendent Torres and Superintendent Cooper of New Britain Public Schools will be launching an after school program similar to the program at Eli Whitney THS. The program will launch at Goodwin THS in the fall of 2015 in order to reach more high school students interested in trade and technology programs.

SkillsUSA

The SkillsUSA State Conference will be held on March 27, 2015 at Wilcox Technical HS. Superintendent Torres welcomed Board members to attend, be a judge or to just stop by and say hello.

Launch of the new CTHSS Website

The new CTHSS Website will be launched in the spring, 2015. All schools will have a new website as well.

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Resolution – Stefan Pryor as Commissioner of Education

Commissioner Smith moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board express its appreciation for the leadership and support of Commissioner Stefan Pryor to the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS). Throughout his tenure as the Commissioner of Education he has made such a difference to the Board, administration, staff, students and the economic development of the State of Connecticut.

Commissioner Pryor was instrumental in the creation of a separate Board for the CTHSS. As a result, a new strategic direction was established for the system that builds on the CTHSS's strengths and positions it for ongoing success for many years to come.

The Board wishes him great success in his new role as Rhode Island's first-ever Secretary of Commerce.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution – Grant Funding

At the January 20, 2015 Outreach and Finance Subcommittee meeting the Committee members had a discussion on the use of grant funds. The CTHSS is an eligible applicant of a grant in the amount of \$275,660.00 of which the CTHSS will receive 80% of (\$220,528.00) in the form of grant funds and \$55,132.00 will be coming from CTHSS technology bond funds. The CTHSS will use the funds to assist in the implementation of the SBAC assessment and the CT Core Standards in the 5 Title I Schools (those are the most in need) through the purchase of Chrome books for every 11th grade student in each of those schools as well as corresponding staff. This grant aligns with and supports the implementation of the goals in the CTHSS Strategic Plan (Specifically Goals 2 and 3) and the CTHSS Technology. At the January 20, 2015 Subcommittee meeting, the members recommended approval of the use of grant funds to the CTHSS Board members.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the CTHSS Board approve the CTHSS to proceed with the RFP for funds in the amount of \$275,660.00 to be used for school upgrades to support transition to the new Common Core State Standards and Assessments and approves that the 20% match come out of the technology bond fund allocation.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Executive Summary is included in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported he is continuing to work with the SBE chair regarding the CTHSS Board vacancies and reappointments.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that her committee met on January 9, 2015. The committee had a discussion on Admission's Policy and approved it.

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 had a discussion and presentation on the Apprentice Programs in Connecticut, student enrollment in terms of diversity/ethnicity and recommended approval for the CTHSS to proceed with the RFP for funds to be used for school upgrades to support transition to the new Common Core State Standards and Assessments.

Mr. Vrabely commended Ms. Casberg and Mr. Ciarleglio on a job well done. The Committee members were impressed that 25% of apprentices in the licensed trade areas are graduates of the CTHSS day program and that 37% of apprentices in the licensed trades areas are students who take apprenticeship coursework with the CTHSS evening Apprenticeship Related Instruction program. Currently over 62% of apprentices in the licensed trades are affiliated with, and have received their apprenticeship related instruction training from the CTHSS.

A copy of the Apprentice Programs in Connecticut presentation was requested to be sent to all the Board members.

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