

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Meeting November 18, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on November 18, 2014, at Eli Whitney Technical High School, 71 Jones Road, Hamden, 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  
Mr. Stephan Bundschu  
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt  
Mr. Matthew Nemerson  
Commissioner Sharon Palmer  
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Mr. Trefry thanked Dr. Moran, Principal of Eli Whitney Technical High School, for hosting the Board Meeting. Dr. Moran thanked the Board members for their support and introduced two of her students, Derick Trickett (grade 12 manufacturing technology) and Tiana DuBoise (grade 12 Marketing, Management, and Entrepreneurship) who shared their experience at Eli Whitney and their post-secondary plans with the board.

### II. Public Participation

Ms. Jan Hochadel, President of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers and Roxanne Amiot, Bullard-Havens Automotive Technology Department Head announced that on November 13, 2014 the AFL-CIO and AFT co-hosted the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Workforce Development Summit in Washington, DC. The summit included panel discussion on the importance of having multiple paths to good jobs and meaningful careers, how business and schools are collaborating and how labor-management partnerships in manufacturing and construction are helping to ensure a pipeline of high-skill, highly productive workers through jointly apprenticeship and training programs. Ms. Hochadel and Ms. Amiot shared a video clip and the agenda from the summit with the Board members. Ms. Amiot and two alumni from Sikorsky Aircraft spoke to an audience of 150 participants from labor, business, academia, foundations, government, public policymakers and the press to explain how as graduates from the CTHSS they were given an opportunity to enter into the middleclass directly upon graduation. Ms. Amiot offered her assistance to the Board in collecting graduate follow-up data.

A copy of the handouts: SVFT November 17, 2014 letter to legislators regarding the summit and the CTE Workforce Development Summit Agenda is included in the official file of this meeting.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

Superintendent Torres reported that at the November 14, 2014 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting the committee recommended approval to the CTHSS Board of the CTHSS Evaluation and Support Plan as the teacher and administrator model starting in the 2014-15 school year reflecting recent changes outlined by the CT State Department of Ed. Superintendent Torres explained in a letter dated October 22, 2014 the State Department of Education approved the plan and today's action is a formality.

Commissioner Palmer moved, Mr. Bundschu seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Item: III.A. CTHSS District's 2014-15 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan.

Resolved, That the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approves the CTHSS Evaluation and Support Plan as the teacher and administrator evaluation model starting in the 2014-2015 school year and reflects recent changes as outlined by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and directs the Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the CTHSS District's 2014-15 Educator Evaluation and Support Plan is included in the official file of this meeting.

### **IV. Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

### **V. Consideration of Minutes**

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting be approved.

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

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

#### **November 20, 2014 Bond Commission Meeting**

At the November 20, 2014 Special Bond Commission meeting, the CTHSS plans to receive funding in the amount of \$434,000 for extended hours programs for youth and unemployed/underemployed adults at Eli Whitney THS in Hamden and A.I. Prince THS in Hartford as established by Public Act 14-98 Sec. 82; \$1,646,530 for various alterations and improvements at various technical high schools; \$4,300,000 for the

replacement of trade and academic equipment, \$2,100,000 for the replacement of technology hardware throughout the district and \$5,000,000 for the continued expansion of the CTHSS' manufacturing cluster throughout the district.

### **Strategic Plan - Meetings with Union Leaders**

The CTHSS continues to share their Strategic Plan and the Board's foundational imperatives with their partners. On November 5, 2014 a SVFT building representative meeting was held where questions were answered and feedback was received. On Wednesday, November 12, 2014 Superintendent Torres invited presidents of the seven bargaining units to a luncheon at Norwich Technical High School to formally launch the Strategic Plan and to gain input. Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman was also in attendance. The CTHSS continues to have conversations with internal and external stakeholders around the strategic plan goals.

### **J.M. Wright Technical High School**

On November 6, 2014 Dr. Levinson, President of Norwalk Community College and a representative from General Electric (GE) toured J.M. Wright Technical High School. The CTHSS is in initial conversations with GE to develop a program that would support Wright THS and the Norwalk Community College Partnership.

### **Convention of the CT State Conference of NAACP**

On Friday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Commissioner Palmer and Superintendent Torres were invited to attend the annual NAACP chapter conference to discuss how education and training can lead to economic justice.

### **Program Expansion Efforts – Abbott and Kaynor THS**

On Monday, November 10, 2014 the CTHSS met with partners from Naugatuck Valley Community College to plan and implement after hour school program expansion at Abbott and Kaynor Technical High Schools. This reaffirms the CTHSS efforts to keep schools open during after-hours in order to reach more students.

### **Family Engagement Regional District Meeting**

On Wednesday, November 19, 2014 the CTHSS will hold their annual Family Engagement Regional District Meeting. All of the Board members are invited to attend. This will be the third year in a row the CTHSS has won an award from the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University for making excellent progress in developing goal-oriented programs of school, family, and community partnerships.

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

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

## **VIII. Items for Discussion**

### **Partnership Program with New Haven**

Superintendent Torres introduced Ms. Barbara Mazzonna and Ms. Sherry Haller of Justice Education to the Board Members who 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. A 12 lesson Youth Employability Skills course, taught by CBIA is infused in the yearlong program. Students meet Monday through Thursday from 3:30 – 5:30 PM for hands on technical training. A packet including a description of the program was distributed to each of the board members. The packet included information on career options, career pathways, types of supports, new opportunities for training and placement, who is eligible, etc.

Ms. Haller and Ms. Mazzonna thanked Principal Mary Moran for all of her support in housing this program after school. Ms. Haller and Ms. Mazzonna responded to questions the Board members raised about the program which included: areas of the trade and skills, definition of at risk, age 24 limitation and case workers assigned to the program for students who receive wrap around services from the City of New Haven.

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

### **Security Efforts & Training**

Superintendent Torres reported that the safety of our students, staff and families is a matter we take seriously. Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Woodmansee, Detective Michael Grieder and Detective John Gregorzek from the CT Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection (Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Office of Counter Terrorism, Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit) to the Board members who presented on measures we are implementing in the District on school security and safety in accordance with Public Act 13-3 an Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention. The PowerPoint presentation included security assessments, ongoing security projects, school security competitive grant program, future plans, duress and emergency notification system and alarm inputs and outputs. Mr. Woodmansee, Detective Grider and Gregorzek responded to questions the Board members raised on school security which included: observation training, computer screens igniting, next wave of purchases, SRO Officers, other towns, etc.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation on School Security and Safety is included in the official file of this meeting.

### **STEM Learning**

Due to time constraints, there was no presentation on STEM learning.

## **VII. Items Requiring Action**

### **A. Trade Reauthorization (Manufacturing and Transportation Technology)**

Superintendent Torres announced that on November 14, 2014 the Quality and Policy Subcommittee recommended approval of the Trade Reauthorization of the Manufacturing and Transportation Technology Career Clusters to the CTHSS Board. Superintendent Torres introduced Education Consultants Marc Hussey, David Kapitulik, Ray Mencio and Mr. Murphy who presented the Trade Reauthorization of the Manufacturing and Transportation Technology Cluster. The Trade Reauthorization is slated to be submitted to the State Board of Education for their approval at the December 3, 2014 Board Meeting. The presentation included the comprehensive process involved to develop the Trade Reauthorization aligning business and industry and input from both internal and external stakeholders. The presentation also included an in-depth description of each of these trade technologies, anticipated changes, along with Department of Labor projections and wages, and graduate follow-up survey results.

The CTHSS Education Consultants responded to questions the Board members raised about the reauthorization which included: adjusted curriculum changes (solar thermal), institutional barriers, new technologies, being held to five years, etc. Discussion included, CNC capability, 3-D printing, Mechatronics, donations, strong funding, alignment with the strategic plan, trades are reviewed on an annual basis, living wages, partnerships, and career pathways.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Nemerson seconded, that the committee agrees to recommend to the State Board of Education the approval of the reauthorization of the following trades:

Automated Manufacturing Technology	from January 2015 to January 2020
Mechatronics formally Electro-Mechanical Technology	from January 2014 to January 2020
Precision Machining Technology formally Manufacturing Technology	from January 2015 to January 2020
Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology formally Computer Aided Drafting & Design (CADD)	from January 2015 to January 2020
Welding and Metal Fabrication Technology	from January 2015 to January 2020
Automotive Technology	from January 2015 to January 2020
Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing	from January 2015 to January 2020
Diesel & Heavy Duty Equipment Repair	from January 2015 to January 2020

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

## **B. Legislative Proposals**

Mr. Trefry reported that the following Legislative Proposals were discussed at the November 14, 2014 Quality and Policy meeting:

1. Identification of terms for members of the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board;
2. Amendment of the requirement for an annual rolling capital improvement and capital equipment plan from a five year plan to a three year plan;
3. All reports of cognizance required by statute will come before the CTHSS Board for final approval.

After an in-depth discussion at the Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting on the authorization to submit legislative proposals to the 2015 Session of the General Assembly, the Committee members decided not to move forward with proposal number 1. The Committee agreed to move forward with proposal number 2 and amended proposal number 3 as follows: All reports of cognizance required by statute will come before the CTHSS Board for final approval.

After an in-depth discussion at today's Board meeting, Board members decided to only move forward with proposal number 2 and to authorize the Quality and Policy Subcommittee to make a recommendation directly to the State Board of Education on proposal number 3 as further discussion was needed.

Mr. Barrasso moved Mr. Nemerson seconded, that the committee agrees to recommend to the CTHSS Board the approval of the following Legislative Proposal for submission to the 2015 Session of the General Assembly and to authorize the Quality and Policy Subcommittee to make a recommendation directly to the State Board of Education on proposal number 3.

Amendment of the requirement for an annual rolling capital improvement and capital equipment plan from a five year plan to a three year plan;

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Authorization to Submit Legislative Proposals to the 2015 General Assembly is included in the official file of this meeting.

**IX. Report of the Chair**

There was no report of the Chair.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

Ms. Keavney-Maruca was absent today. The report of the committee was reported earlier in today's meeting.

**B. Outreach and Finance**

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met on November 18, 2014, just prior to today's board meeting. The committee had a discussion and presentation on the structure of the Trade Technology Advisory Committees within the district. The committee also had a presentation and discussion on the Culinary Credentials. The CTHSS Culinary Arts Program is seeking accreditation from the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation (ACFEF). ACF is the largest professional chef's organization in North America.

**XI. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**XII. Adjourn**

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:52 p.m.

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