

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

October 15, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on October 15, 2013, at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, 75 Oliver Street, Torrington, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: John Barrasso
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Sharon Palmer
Catherine Smith
Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson
Fitz Walker

Absent: Stephan Bundschu
Matthew Nemerson

Mr. Trefry called for a moment of silence for the unfortunate death of an Oliver Wolcott Student.

Mr. Trefry thanked Mr. Axon, Principal of Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, for hosting the Board Meeting. Mr. Axon introduced six students from various trades and he thanked Chef McDowell and his four culinary students who assisted in the meal preparation for today's meeting.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

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 Superintendent search. Present in Executive Session were Mr. Trefry, Mr. Barrasso, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Pryor, Commissioner Smith, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Walker.

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Ms. Keavney, the Board voted unanimously to recess Executive Session and reconvene in Public Session at 2:20 p.m.

V. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Barrasso, moved Ms. Keavney seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

J. M. Wright Technical High School

The J.M. Wright Technical High School Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 which included a tour of the school. There was a good turnout and a lot of enthusiasm.

Digital Media Efforts are moving forward for the Fall, 2014. The district is partnering with UCONN Stamford and Starwood Hotels to develop the curriculum.

A Marketing Teaser Campaign is underway. A principal and a guidance coordinator will be hired at the end of the month. Central office staff is working on the job descriptions for the teaching staff.

Mr. Trefry and Interim Superintendent Torres plan to attend the J.M. Wright Advisory Committee meeting on October 21, 2013 to update the Stamford members on the J.M. Wright THS efforts.

Update of the Strategic Plan

During the week of September 10, 2013, the Thomas P. Miller and Associates visited Connecticut to start the project launch by interviewing Board members, the Commissioner and the Interim Superintendent. From there, the environmental scan has continued and Interim Superintendent Torres has had daily communications with Thomas P. Miller and Associates to coordinate the release of student performance data, connect them to internal and external partners that can provide insight to the process including those connected to Wright Tech, and monitor the progress of the plan.

The next steps include setting up dates for focus groups (internal and external), initiating asset mapping, reviewing data from the workforce industry, higher education, etc.

Smarter Balanced

Interim Superintendent Torres participated in a conference call hosted by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) on Friday, October 11, 2013 to discuss district options regarding student assessment, accountability and educator evaluation flexibilities.

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that the CTHSS plans to submit the following selections:

- All grade 10 students will take the Science CAPT assessment
- The Smarter Balanced Field Test for ELA and Math for all of the 11th Grade students
- This year the state assessment data for our teacher evaluation will not be used. rather instead the CTHSS will use locally available assessments such as Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR), and STAR Math, trade assessments and other teacher/department created assessments.

National Career Pathways Network Conference (NCPN)

CTHSS consultants are making a national presence at the NCPN conference in San Antonio, TX this week.

Assistant Superintendent Position

The Assistant Superintendent position will be posted for three weeks and the CTHSS should have someone on Board by January, 2014.

Project Learning Tree

At the June Board meeting, Board members will recall the launch of the Project Learning Tree Program where Commissioner Esty attended. The CTHSS has received positive press from this program. The Connecticut Business and Industry in partnership with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the CTHSS is piloting this program at Abbott, Goodwin, Platt, Grasso and Norwich Tech. There is a clear growing demand for skilled workers in energy.

Licensed Practical Nursing Program (LPN) Marketing

The CTHSS has launched a new marketing campaign for the LPN program beginning in January 2014. A marketing brochure was shared with the Board members.

Manufacturing Month

October marks Connecticut. Dream It. Do It. Manufacturing Month, to recognize the importance of the manufacturing industry to Connecticut's long-term economic viability and to showcase manufacturing career opportunities statewide.

Two "Manufacturing Mania" events are set for Manufacturing Month: October 4, at the Toyota Presents Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford; and October 18 at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. The CTHSS will be participating at Three Rivers. In addition the Connecticut Technical High School system have been present at numerous events and asked 13 schools with manufacturing programs to schedule open houses for business partners community parents to promote the program.

Bond Commission

On September 27, 2013, the CTHSS received approval for bond allocations totaling \$8.23 Million including: \$3.5M for the expansion of the manufacturing programs at Grasso, Platt, Abbott, Cheney, Goodwin, Wolcott, and Windham; \$2.65M for the replacement of technology equipment and \$2.08M for the replacement of student transportation vehicles. We remain hopeful that the buses will be available on or about January 1st, 2014 to replace the units that must be retired.

A.I. Prince Technical High School, Hartford - Adult Ed Weatherization Project

Interim Superintendent shared with the Board members a photo of students receiving training on foam insulation. This weatherization program was a great partnership with the Capital Workforce Partners Jobs Funnel Program. The program received a total number of 14 completers out of 17 enrolled and all 14 adults have been placed into jobs.

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Fiscal Policy

At the October 8, 2013 Finance and Facilities Meeting, the Committee recommended approval of the Fiscal Policy to the CTHSS Board. The purpose of the fiscal policy is to guide the functions of the Board and the Superintendent to ensure healthy fiscal management in all district operations.

Interim Superintendent Torres and Mr. Chasse responded to questions the Committee Members raised about the policy.

Commissioner Palmer moved, Ms. Keavney seconded, that the CTHSS Board approve the Fiscal Policy as recommended by the Finance and Facilities Committee and directs the Interim Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

B. Automatic Refill Letter

Interim Superintendent Torres thanked the Board for their leadership and recognizing that our biggest obstacle to implement change and impact student achievement is staffing limitations. As we have previously reported to the Board, there are 57 full time general vacancies we are still awaiting approval of teaching positions and staffing J.M. Wright in a timely manner.

At the October 11, 2013 Quality and Policy Meeting, the Committee recommended approval of the reinstatement of automatic refill for instructional, administrative, and health and safety positions to ensure that the teaching and learning of our over 11,000 student population along with the normal day to day operations of the school district can operate at the highest level of performance.

Ms. Keavney moved, Ms. Barrasso seconded that the CTHSS Board approve the Superintendent and others to take the necessary action to seek the reinstatement of automatic refill for instructional, administrative and health and safety positions.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Common Core State Standard/Smarter Balanced Overview

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Laura Vega, English, English-Language-Learners, and World Language Consultant and Barbara St. Onge, District Improvement and Professional Development Coordinator Consultant. Dr. Vega and Dr. St. Onge presented a PowerPoint on the Common Core State Standards for Teaching and Learning. The goal of the Common Core State Standards in Connecticut is to insure that every student in Connecticut is college and career ready to meet the demands of the 21st century in the world and work. The goal of the Common Career Technical Core is to provide secondary and post-secondary students with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive in a global economy. The presentation also included a brief background on adolescent literacy—a critical need for today’s students 21st century students.

Dr. Vega and Dr. St. Onge responded to questions the board members raised about the common core state standards. Questions and discussion included, field testing eleventh graders, transitioning from one assessment to another, the measurement of growth over time, and fiction versus non-fiction.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, that the CTHSS Board approves the district’s implementation of the Smarter Balanced achievement test for the spring of 2014 and directs the Interim Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported that ongoing discussions continue with the Board of with Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Mr. Trefry and Commissioner Smith discussed with Dr. Gray the possibility of having adult programs in the technical high schools in the evenings but run by the Community Colleges. The Community Colleges would collect the tuition and pay the CTHSS for the use of the facilities and the teaching for those students.

There is a special meeting scheduled on November 8, 2013 with Dr. Gray and Dr. Levinson to look at the alignments.

Interim Superintendent added that she has reached out to the chair of the Community College Strategic Planning Committee so that the CTHSS can align the processes with theirs.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney reported that the committee met on Friday, October 11, 2013, and discussed the 2013 CAPT results, the reinstatement of the automatic refill for instructional, administrative and health and safety positions, and the 2014 Agency Legislative Proposal and the language supporting the CTHSS Board approval of all reports required by statute.

B. Finance and Facilities

Mr. Barrasso reported that the committee met on Tuesday, October 8, 2013, and discussed the CTHSS Fiscal Policy and recommended approval to the CTHSS Board. Also discussed was the CTHSS Report of Expenditures by School (2012-13) Results, the custodial staffing report and funds approved at the September 27, 2013 Bond Commission Meeting.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee did not meet today. Had the committee met today they would have discussed the JM Wright Technical High School and the Strategic Plan.

XI. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

Executive Session

The Board voted unanimously to reconvene into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent search. Present in Executive Session were Mr. Trefry, Mr. Barrasso, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Commissioner Palmer, Commissioner Pryor, Commissioner Smith, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Walker.

On a motion by Commissioner Smith seconded by, Mr. Barrasso, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Public Session at 2:20 p.m.

XII. Adjourn

The Board adjourned its meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Diane Curtis

Prepared by: _____
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant