

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – October 17, 2017

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on October 17, 2017 at H.H. Ellis Technical High School, 613 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Gina Chiarella
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mr. Peter Hoecklin
Commissioner Scott Jackson
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Mr. Fitz Walker

II. Public Participation

III. Welcome

A. Showcase Students of Excellence (Masonry)

Dr. Mignault introduced Mr. Daigle, Masonry Department Head and Mr. Hayden Masonry Instructor to the Board members. Students, Camron Louis, and Thomas Ellis were also introduced to the Board and presented a PowerPoint on the masonry work they learn in their trade technology shop during their freshman exploratory. Their presentation also included work they complete during off campus production.

The Board members were very impressed with their presentation and thanked the instructors and students for sharing their work

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

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Consideration of Minutes

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the September 19, 2017 CTHSS Board meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Chiarella, De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Hoecklin, Jackson, Keavney, Smith, Trefry
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Walker

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Executive Session

The Board did not go into executive session.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VII. Items for Discussion

Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools

A. Presentation about Ellis Tech and Student Introductions

Interim Superintendent Wihbey thanked Principal Mignault for hosting today's meeting. Dr. Mignault welcomed the Board members and guests and introduced the following masonry students: Anna Carpentier (Culinary), Randy Ferrigno (Hairdressing/Barbering) and Trevor Roberts (Electronics) who shared their experience at Ellis Tech and their post-secondary plans.

Dr. Mignault also shared a PowerPoint presentation about Ellis Tech including: Ellis Tech's 2017-18 goals, commitments, student achievement, Ellis v District Average grades, reading results, CAPT results, enrollment, classroom action model called SHARE, and standards of organizational excellence.

The Board members thanked Dr. Mignault for his hospitality today.

A copy of their presentations are included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Physical Education Committee

At the September 17, 2017 Subcommittee meeting, Physical Education results were discussed and a difference in the pass rate of females compared to males have been identified as an area for improvement. It has become evident that we have achievement gaps in P.E. between males and females. Mr. Wihbey has charged a steering committee to formulate a hypothesis and conduct action research leading to recommendations for improvement. The committee will be co-chaired by Dr. Wallace, Mr. Oczkowski and Mr. Bazzano. This fall, they will be reaching out to a group of teachers, counselors, and stakeholders to conduct action research -- what were the barriers of achievement between girls and boys and come up with actionable strategies to address them. They will also be presenting their pre plan to the principals in

December to solicit guidance and feedback and to then to the sub-committee on quality and policy for their feedback before starting. Mr. Wihbey plans to update the Board in the spring with their findings.

C. School and District Scoreboard

At the September 17, 2017 Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Wihbey reviewed the CTHSS District Scoreboard report with the committee members. At their meeting it was agreed this item be brought to the CTHSS Board for further discussion.

Mr. Wihbey reviewed the school and district scoreboard data with the Board members and the metrics that were looked at including: breakdown of population as far as demographics, discipline, worked based learning, student attendance, Math – ALEKS, four-year graduation rate, Survey response rates, student teacher attendance, inventory, physical fitness assessment, LAS Links 2017, Science CAPT 2016, and Reading – STAR.

The Board members commended Mr. Wihbey and his staff on the 4 year graduation rate numbers, those schools with free and reduced lunch and title 1 schools and commended them on the numbers overall.

The Board members engaged in a discussion about the school and district scoreboard including how the data will be used, i.e., strategic planning, identifying areas in need of improvement based on the data, setting goals, and monitoring.

The Board members thanked Mr. Wihbey for providing his comprehensive report and congratulated him on a job well done.

Follow-up: Graduation rates in comparison to the public schools will be forwarded to the Board members.

Superintendent Updates

Vinal Tech E-House Opening

On October 24, 2017, Vinal Technical High School will be celebrating their e-house opening at 9:30AM. The Connecticut Technical High Schools System's Green E-House initiative was developed to create on-site laboratories for high school students and trade instructors where hands-on learning and green workforce development could flourish. Each E-House is designed and built by CTHSS students and instructors featuring high-efficiency and clean technologies. Interim Superintendent invited everyone to join in the celebration.

People in Certification Mike Wolf Article

Mr. Wihbey shared an article about a former Cheney Tech Student Mike Wolfe, and how certification is fueling the passions of this New England Teen.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry announced that at the October 4, 2017, State Board of Education meeting Ms. Andrea Comer, Vice President of Workforce Strategies, CBIA Education and Workforce Partnership was appointed to the CTHSS Board. He shared Ms. Comer's resume with the Board members. Ms. Comer will be joining the Outreach

and Finance Subcommittee and will be sworn in at the November 14, 2017 Board meetings. Ms. Comer will be a tremendous asset to the Board.

Mr. Trefry announced there will not be a meeting this afternoon of the Superintendent Search Committee. The return date of the position posting is October 26, 2017.

Mr. Trefry presented the idea to the Board members of having the student showcase in the shops in lieu of the tour. Mr. Wihbey shared that Board members will have an opportunity to see every trade this school year. Board members endorsed the idea.

Mr. Trefry also informed the Board members about a change in the structure of the full Board meeting agenda. The sub-committee chairs will present more of a report rather than repeating a presentation that was given in-depth during their subcommittee meetings.

Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on October 17, 2017 just prior to today's CTHSS Board meeting. The committee had a discussion on SAT Results, Chronic Absenteeism and Student Learning Outcomes for Math and Reading. The Board members are looking forward to the results of the Chronic Absenteeism Committee.

B. Outreach and Finance

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on October 17, 2017 just prior to today's CTHSS Board meeting. The Committee did not have a quorum. The committee received an update on the CTHSS Report on Student Transportation Vehicles, and CTHSS Report of School Budgets. The Committee members tabled the discussion on the CTHSS Report of Expenditures by School Results (2016-17) until the November 14, 2017 meeting.

IX. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

X. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:00 PM

Prepared by:



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Connecticut Technical High School System