

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

November 19, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on November 19, 2013, at A.I. Prince Technical High School, 401 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: John Barrasso
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson
*Fitz Walker
Stephan Bundschu
Matthew Nemerson

Absent: Sharon Palmer
Catherine Smith

Mr. Trefry thanked Mr. Chaffin, Principal of A.I. Prince Technical High School, for hosting the Board Meeting. Mr. Chaffin thanked the Board Members and introduced two students, Patricia Cancho and Mehdi Muratovic who shared their post-secondary plans with the board. Mr. Chaffin spoke to the Board about Prince's adult education programs including the overflowing Apprenticeship Program, Workforce Development Program, Microsoft Certification, NIMS Certification and the Weatherization Program for adults to retrain into jobs. Mr. Chaffin also thanked his art, music and culinary department for their assistance in preparing for today's meeting.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED)

Pending waiver approval from the U.S. Department of Education regarding student assessment options and district and school accountability the CTHSS has edited the Teacher Evaluation Plan, adding pages five through eight, to include an update on the implementation and timeline of the CTHSS. This revised plan was reviewed and discussed at the November 13, 2013 Quality and Policy Meeting.

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Item: III.A. Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED).

Resolved, That the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, pursuant to Public Act 12-116, as amended by P.A. 12-2 of the June Special Session, approves Connecticut's System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) as the teacher and administrator evaluation model starting in the 2013-2014 school year and directs the Interim Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Barrasso, moved Mr. Bundschu seconded, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

Educational Success Compact between the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Connecticut Technical High School System

An agreement has been drafted between the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Connecticut Technical High School System. The agreement includes:

- Explore and create new opportunities in the next year to successfully transition technical high school graduates into the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (ConnSCU) System.
- In the next year, we will create a talent pipeline supporting and promoting technical high school students toward specific industry clusters reflected in the CTHSS draft blueprint which are Advanced Manufacturing, Allied Health, Hospitality, Financial Services and Information Technology. This approach will offer technical high school students the opportunity to receive college credit for

specifically designated coursework, ability to take classes at the Community Colleges, and to strengthen the supports for the successful transition of students moving to the Community Colleges.

- Further define a System-to-System lease agreement in order to better utilize existing technical high school space to the maximum, while also providing more opportunities for Community College coursework and programs to be offered at designated technical high schools in the evenings based upon industry needs in the immediate region.
- System to System, at an administrative level, to work together in the next year to review and define both challenges and opportunities for efficiencies between systems, and move forward in the creation of those efficiencies to better support and strengthen each system and all students including adult tuition resources
- Create a Working Group consisting of the Interim Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System, the BOR Director of Innovation and Outreach, the Vice President of the Connecticut State Universities, the Vice President of the Connecticut Community Colleges, the Academic Officer for the BOR, representative of the Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner's Office and two representatives from the Connecticut Community Colleges to support this work.
- Participate in, and support, the work of the Early College Taskforce established by ConnSCU and the Department of Education, connecting the efforts undertaken as part of this Compact with broader work regarding college access and readiness.

Next steps include an official signing ceremony that will be coordinated by the Board of Regents.

Mr. Trefry thanked Commissioner Pryor and Dr. Grey for their hard work and support in this vital effort. Commissioner Pryor thanked both Mr. Trefry and Interim Superintendent Torres.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approves the Educational Success Compact between the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Technical High School System and directs the Interim superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Educational Success Compact between the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Technical High School System is included in the official file of this meeting.

The Planning Commission for Higher Ed Meeting

Interim Superintendent Torres attended the November 12, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting and provided an overview of the charge. She will continue to attend these meetings and will keep the board members updated.

Automatic Refill

At the October 15, 2013 CTHSS Board Meeting, the board approved with the Quality and Policy Committees recommendation, the reinstatement of automatic refill for recruitment. The letter to Secretary Benjamin Barnes was sent on behalf of the CTHSS Board Chair and the CTHSS Board requesting the reinstatement of the auto refill status for certain critical positions in the CTHSS. A meeting will be

scheduled with Secretary Barnes, Commissioner Pryor, CTHSS Board Chair, Mr. Trefry, and Interim Superintendent Torres.

National Governor's Association Regional Summit on America Works: Education for Tomorrow's Jobs

On October 22-23, 2013, Interim Superintendent Torres joined the Governor, representatives from the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and CETC (Connecticut Employment and Training Commission), at the National Governor's Association Regional Summit in Stamford, CT hosted by Governor Malloy. We had the opportunity to hear from other states as to how they are aligning their state agencies and institutions of Higher Education to impact workforce development. Each regional summit will help define the challenge of preparing America's workforce for tomorrow's jobs and sharing solutions emerging in the state.

J. M. Wright Technical High School

Monday, October 21, 2013, the J.M. Wright Advisory Committee met at AITE (Academy for Information, Technology, and Engineering) in Stamford, CT. We thank Principal Rivera and Superintendent Hamilton for hosting us on that day. Some of the salient points from the presentation included:

- Promoting the school as a Career Academy connected to Norwalk Community College and other higher education institutions in the southwestern corner of the state.
- Developing a technology rich environment
- Providing students with 1-1 Computing and a digitized curriculum
- Creating *Personalized Learning Environments* tailored to student's career choices with opportunities to learn from global partners, field experts and industry leaders.
- Connecting to business industry and capitalizing on the thriving economy of the area to provide internships and work based learning opportunities for students.

J.M. Wright Principal Update

A second round of interviews will be held on December 10, 2013.

*Mr. Walker arrived at 2:00

Strategic Planning – Focus Groups

Interim Superintendent reported to the Board members on November 18th and 19th Thomas P. Miller held focus group meetings with teachers and staff at both Cheney and Prince Technical High Schools. On December 16, 2013, Thomas P. Miller will be holding additional focus group meetings and have an opportunity to talk to parents, teachers, students, members of the trade technology advisory committees from different regions of the state, leadership (principals and assistant principals), bargaining units, and central office staff. The student congress consultant was asked to elicit strengths and areas of improvements from student leaders and the feedback will be shared at these focus group meetings. The intent of these focus group meetings is to allow the stakeholders to be an active part of the strategic planning process.

Assistant Superintendent Interviews

Assistant Superintendent Interviews will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 and a new assistant superintendent should be on board by January, 2014

VII. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Strategic Plan Update

Mr. Trefry reported that the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships Sub Committee meets before each Board meeting. If anyone is interested in joining the discussion, the Board would be happy to have folks at the meetings. Mr. Trefry thanked Thomas P. Miller and Associates for joining us today and providing an update to the committee based on conversations and interviews they have had with Board members, Commissioner Pryor, Interim Superintendent Torres, Education staff, etc.

Thomas P. Miller and Associates and Hans Meeder, presented a PowerPoint on national and international best models on Career and Technical Education. Examples included information from four countries (Austria, Finland, Germany and Switzerland) and Florida, Ohio Oklahoma, P-Tech New Jersey Talent Networks and Advanced Technical Programs.

The present plan is to use the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships Sub Committee as a working group to flesh out ideas and prioritize goals and strategies.

The Board Members provided comments and input during the presentation and brainstormed after the presentation. Comments included:

The CTHSS has a unique school system that works.
The CTHSS needs to stay flexible based on changing needs.
It is important to pilot any new ideas first at Wright Tech.
Connections with business and industry are pivotal.
How do we make clean energy exciting?
How do we get folks to think about us nationally?
How can we partner with other countries?

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

B. Interim Superintendent's Goals

There was no report on the Interim Superintendent Goals.

IX. Report of the Chair

At the December 17, 2013 CTHSS Board meeting, Thomas P. Miller will present an analysis on student achievement data.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney reported that the committee met on Friday, November 8, 2013 and discussed the CTHSS Trade Enrollment by Gender and an article on the Human Brain. The committee also reviewed the automatic refill letter to Secretary Barnes. Mr. Bundschu updated the committee members on progress made on partnerships in Germany.

B. Finance and Facilities

Mr. Barrasso reported that the committee met on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, and discussed the allocations of Trade and Academic Equipment Funding. The District intends to submit a \$3.0 Million bond fund request for trade and academic equipment to the Office of Policy and Management for consideration at the January 21, 2014 Bond Commission Meeting. The Committee also had a discussion on the request for the purchase of a Lear Jet for the Aviation School which has been tabled.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met on November 19, 2013 with the strategic planning firm, Thomas P. Miller and Associates. The present plan is to use the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships Sub Committee as a working group to flesh out ideas and prioritize goals and strategies.

XI. Public Participation

Mr. Trefry received feedback from the public regarding Thomas P. Miller and Associates presentation.

XII. Adjourn

The Board adjourned its meeting at 3:55 PM

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant