

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Meeting

February 19, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on February 19, 2013, in Room 307A of the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

### I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:42 p.m.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson  
Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr., Vice Chairperson  
John Barrasso  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Matthew Nemerson\*  
Catherine Smith  
Fitz G. Walker, Jr.

Absent: Stephan Bundschu  
Susan Davis  
Dr. Lillian Ortiz  
Sharon Palmer

### II. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

### III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

### IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Barrasso moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2013, meeting of the Board.

VOTE ON	In Favor:	Barrasso, Keavney-Maruca, Smith, Trefry, Vrabely, Walker
MOTION:	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Bundschu, Davis, Nemerson, Ortiz, Palmer

Motion carried unanimously.

**V. Items Requiring Action**

There were no items requiring action.

\*(Mr. Nemerson arrived at 1:47 p.m.)

**VI. Items for Discussion**

**A. Overview of Technical Education Models, New England Association of Schools and Colleges**

Superintendent Nivea Torres introduced Mr. Paul Bento, Director of the Commission on Technical and Career Institutions, New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Mr. Bento provided a detailed overview of the accreditation process used by NEASC. Mr. Bento recommended that Connecticut place a priority on the condition of its technical high school buildings (via construction and renovation projects).

Dr. Niki Menounos, Principal of Norwich Technical High School, reported on the differences and similarities (e.g., in areas such as funding, curriculum, production work, students served, leadership, etc.) between the technical high schools in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Board members discussed the labor market and the advantages and disadvantages of responding to a local, smaller job market vs. a global market, and the importance of post-graduation data to determine how well the technical high schools prepare its students. Discussion ensued.

**B. Update on the Connecticut Technical High School System Budget**

Superintendent Torres and James Chasse, Fiscal Office, Education Consultant, reported on the status of the THSS budget, including a projected deficit, discussions with the Office of Policy and Management regarding positions, and support in the Governor's proposed budget for capital projects.

Superintendent Torres noted that she is pursuing funding for school resource officers, a graduate follow-up unit and adult education bursar's office.

**C. Trade Reauthorization: Construction Cluster**

Superintendent Torres introduced Marc Hussey, Raymond Mencio and John Murphy, consultants in the THSS, who explained the trade reauthorization process, including the review of data from the Department of Labor and input from the Trade Technology Advisory Committees. Discussion followed. This matter will be placed on the agenda of the next Board meeting for action.

**D. Update on New Teacher and Administrator Evaluation**

Superintendent Torres summarized the 2013-14 rollout process for the implementation of the System for Educator Evaluation and Development. She expressed her preference for the whole model, district-wide. Dr. Torres noted that a recommendation to the Board will be made at the next meeting,

in order to comply with the April 15, 2013, deadline for districts to submit their evaluation and support plans to the State Department of Education for review and approval.

**VII. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Trefry reported on the following:

- Summary of the Connecticut Technical High School System Task Force Report (January 2012);
- A proposed letter to be sent to constituents from the Board, regarding development of a strategic plan for the THSS, as well as the on-going opportunity for the public to make suggestions and recommendations for improving Connecticut's technical high schools. Mr. Trefry invited members to review the letter and share any suggested edits with him. A copy of the draft letter is included in the official file; and
- Excerpts from the State of the Union Address that apply to the school system (copy included in the official file).

Mr. Trefry requested that the Board consider the Consent Agenda at this time.

**IX. Consent Agenda**

**A. Authorization of Signature Change for ED 099, School Nutrition Programs**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approves that Dr. Nivea L. Torres, Interim Superintendent, be added as an authorized signer of the ED-099 Agreement for Child Nutrition programs for the Connecticut Technical High School System.

VOTE ON MOTION:	In Favor:	Barrasso, Keavney-Maruca, Nemerson, Smith, Trefry, Vrabely, Walker
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Bundschu, Davis, Ortiz, Palmer

Motion carried unanimously.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

### **A. Quality and Process**

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca stated that the committee met on February 15, 2013, and discussed the need to expedite the hiring process and approved the submission of the construction cluster trade reauthorization to the full Board for its discussion and action. She noted that the committee will discuss graduation rates at its next meeting. The Quality and Process Committee will meet on the second Friday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the THSS Superintendent's Office in Middletown.

### **B. Finance and Facilities**

Mr. Vrabely reported that each school's budget will be posted on the web site. The committee reviewed the current budget, and expressed concerns about the need for school resource officers and instructional staff. The committee also discussed bonding issues, as well as the need to increase the adult education tuition rates.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to repair the roof at Windham Technical High School, the costs related thereto, the overall poor condition of the facility, and discussions underway about the possibility of relocating that school in the future. The Board felt that the repair of the roof at Windham Tech should proceed for health and safety reasons.

### **C. Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships**

Mr. Nemerson reported that the committee will meet this afternoon.

## **X. Adjourn**

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela V. Charland  
Assistant to the Commissioner of Education