

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Retreat February 19, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on February 19, 2014, at the State Office Building, Room 307A, Hartford, Connecticut.

### **I. Welcome**

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson  
Mr. Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr., Vice Chairperson  
Mr. John Barrasso  
Mr. Stephan Bundschu  
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt  
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Commissioner Sharon Palmer  
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Matthew Nemerson  
Mr. Fitz G. Walker, Jr.

Chairperson Trefry welcomed the members of the Connecticut Technical High School System Board ("Board"), SDE Commissioner Stefan Pryor, and Thomas P. Miller and Associates and thanked them for coming to the retreat. He congratulated Dr. Nivea L. Torres on her appointment of the Superintendent of Schools.

Superintendent Torres introduced CTHSS Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey, SVFT President Jan Hochadel, CTHSS District Improvement/Sheff Coordinator Consultant and P3A Representative Sandi Casberg, CTHSS District Improvement/Professional Development Coordinator Consultant Barbara St. Onge, CTHSS Instructional Social Studies and Early Child Care Education Consultant Mary Skelly and CTHSS Administrative Assistant Diane Curtis to the group.

Mr. Trefry gave an overview of the agenda and his expectations for the retreat. Thomas P. Miller and Associates presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the Strategic Planning Retreat Outline for the day.

### **II. CTHSS Board Discussion on Principles**

The Board members broke out into four groups to respond to the strategic planning questions below. Due to time constraints, the group was only able to address questions 1, 2, 5, 6 and 7.

The CTHSS Board members engaged in a meaningful discussion to the strategic planning questions.

1. What do we want CTHSS students to possess when they graduate?
2. What do we want employers, apprenticeship programs and colleges to say about our CTHSS graduates?
3. What do we want employers, apprenticeship programs and colleges to say about our graduates who complete a non-four year program like those who attend Bristol Tech?
4. What do we want employers, apprenticeship programs and colleges to say about our adult program graduates?
5. What opportunities do we want to provide to students who do not meet our entrance requirements but still desire trade education?
6. What new initiatives should we pursue to improve the Connecticut economy?
7. What types of international relationships should we develop for our schools and what kinds of international opportunities should we offer to our students?
8. Given the output from above, what changes in the criteria for trade reauthorization and additions, should we consider?
9. What structural changes to the configuration academies/trades in the schools should we consider?
10. How can we make the system more nimble?

A copy of Thomas P. Miller's PowerPoint Presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

### **III. Establish a Mission Statement for the CTHSS**

The CTHSS Board members engaged in an exercise to discuss and give input on the establishment of a mission statement for the CTHSS. The mission statement once defined will be included in the CTHSS Board's Strategic Plan that can then be presented to stakeholders for public review and comment.

### **IV. Areas of Focus**

The CTHSS Board did not have time to refine the following areas of focus.

- Alignment of trades with industry needs,
- Enhanced employer engagement,
- Alignment of K-12 Post-Secondary and Adult Systems
- Flexibility, responsiveness and innovation

**V. Next Steps**

Thomas P. Miller and Associates will summarize the discussion and incorporate the consensus items into the strategic plan for further discussion at the March meeting. Mr. Trefry thanked everyone for coming to the retreat.

**VI. Adjournment**

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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Connecticut Technical High School System