

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Meeting March 18, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on March 18, 2014, at Howell Cheney Technical High School, 791 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT.

### **I. Call to Order**

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

Absent: Mr. Matthew Nemerson  
Commissioner Catherine Smith  
Mr. Fitz G. Walker, Jr.

Mr. Trefry thanked Mr. Sartoris, Principal of Howell Cheney Technical High School, for hosting the Board Meeting. Mr. Sartoris thanked the Board Members and introduced two students, Rashawn Lee, Student Council President and Katrina Wilkins, RHO Kappa President who shared their experience at Cheney Tech and their post-secondary plans with the board. Mr. Sartoris also thanked the Board for their support.

### **II. Public Participation**

Jan Hochadel, SVFT President; Sterling Roberson, Vice President of UFT in New York City addressed the board about the great work the New York schools are doing with respect to Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the national level. Mr. Trefry thanked UFT for coming and speaking to the board and he looks forward to them hosting a CTE Summit in Connecticut in the Fall.

The board considered agenda item III.B. at this time.

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **B. 2014-15 Healthy Food Certification Statement**

Mr. Vrabely moved, Commissioner Palmer seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Item: III.A. 2014-15 Healthy Food Certification Statement.

Resolved, That the State Connecticut Technical High School System Board, pursuant to Section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves that the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) will not participate in the Healthy Food Certification for school year 2014-2015 as recommended by the Finance and Facilities subcommittee, although it will continue to maintain current Federal nutritional standards in its school meals and a la carte options and directs the Superintendent of Schools to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Healthy Food Certification Executive Summary is included in the official file of this meeting.

#### **IV. Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

#### **V. Consideration of Minutes**

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the December 17, 2013, February 3, 2014 and February 19, 2014 meetings be approved.

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

The board considered agenda item III.A.at this time.

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

On January 29, 2014 at the urging of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Senate President, Speaker of the House and members of the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC), the PEAC council took action to provide additional flexibility for districts in implementing the new educator evaluation and support system. The CTHSS has responded to this request in revising the SEED guidelines for teachers, administrators and adult education programs This revised plan was reviewed and discussed at the March 14, 2014 Quality and Policy Meeting.

Commissioner Palmer moved, Mr. Bundschu 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 as recommended by the Quality and Policy Subcommittee and reflects recent changes in providing additional flexibility in implementing the new educator evaluation and support system and directs the Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the SEED Executive Summary is Included in the official file of this meeting.

## **VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

### **Legislative Updates**

Superintendent Torres reported she provided testimony in support of House Bill 5375 – AA Implementing the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee on the Reemployment of Older Workers Concerning the Technical High School System. The CTHSS is committed to expanding adult programs and services and strongly supports this proposed legislation. She requested the legislative body consider the need to develop and ensure the funding and infrastructure necessary to rebuild our adult education office.

Superintendent Torres provided joint testimony with the Board of Regents (BOR) for Higher Education on House Bill 5434 – An act Requiring a Technical High School and Community-Technical College Cooperative. Superintendent Torres does not believe the proposed legislation is necessary as the CTHSS and the BOR created an Educational Success Compact which was approved by the CTHSS Board in November 2013.

Superintendent Torres will continue to update the board on legislative matters.

### **Educational Success Compact Working Group of the BOR/CSCU & CTHSS**

Superintendent Torres reported that on March 14, 2014 the first working committee between the CTHSS and the Board of Regents for Higher Education took place. The CTHSS is very interested in supporting the early college experience and aligning our

curriculum with the community colleges. Superintendent Torres will continue to keep the board updated regarding this committee.

### **CTHSS Partnership between Norwalk Community College and J.M. Wright Technical High School**

On Monday, March 10, 2014 a team of representatives of the CTHSS Central Office, J.M. Wright Principal Mr. Joseph Tripodi attended a meeting with Norwalk Community College. Superintendent Torres reported our partnership with Norwalk Community College is strong and continues to thrive. J.M. Wright already has 150 applications for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class and 115 acceptance letters have already been sent out. Ten shops will be fully completed by the fall.

### **Work Agreement between the Center for Collaborative Evaluation and Strategic Change (CCES) @ Education Connection and the CTHSS**

Superintendent Torres met with members of the Education Connection who will be helping the CTHSS develop an admissions study. This was a topic discussed at the CTHSS Board Retreat held on February 19, 2014. Some of the questions the evaluation will address are: How is assessment of career and employability skills incorporated into the admissions process for a diverse group of students? How can assessment of career and employability skills be improved, and how can the ability of the CTHSS schools to attract a diverse group of students be improved are just to name a few. Education Connection will interview board members, the school community, and central office staff. Superintendent Torres is hoping to have the study complete by the end of the school year and be in unison with the strategic plan.

### **Emmett O'Brien Technical High School Production Work in Oxford, CT**

Superintendent Torres shared photos of impeccable work the Emmett O'Brien Technical High School Electrical and HVAC shops have constructed in a home in Oxford, CT. The Superintendent plans to tour the home.

### **The Contractors Choice Magazine "Connecticut State High School Installs Bosch & Buderus in "E-House":**

Platt Technical High School's e-house was mentioned in Issue 4 of the September 2013 Edition of the Contractor's Choice Magazine. The Contractor's Choice is a magazine dedicated to the professionals who install boilers, district hot water tanks, tankless water heaters, solar and geothermal systems from Bosh and Buderus. The article published was about how Platt Technical High School inaugurated its E-House and how the E-House is part of CT Technical High School System's "green" approach, providing clean energy curriculum and hands-on experience for its architectural, carpentry, electrical and plumbing departments' faculty and students.

## **VII. Items Requiring Action**

There were no items requiring action.

## **VIII. Items for Discussion**

### **A. Strategic Plan**

The CTHSS Board participated in a large group discussion regarding the proposed Strategic Plan and provided suggested changes to the foundational imperatives and the district's mission statement.

The next steps will be to review the proposed plan with stakeholders for their feedback and suggestions on implementation strategies. The Superintendent will oversee the stakeholder feedback process. A proposed action plan will be developed under the direction of the Superintendent for Board review. The action plan will include: specific goals and actions, timelines, financial implications, marketing, and metrics. The plan will be reviewed with the State Board of Education, the Office of Policy and Management and the Legislature for their input and support.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso, seconded that the CTHSS Board move forward with seeking stakeholder input on the proposed Strategic Plan and the development of specific action plans.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the draft 2014 CTHSS Strategic Plan is included in the official file of this meeting.

## **IX. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Trefry attended the Public Hearing on Common Core State Standards on March 12, 2014. Mr. Trefry supports the common core standards and requested a motion to reaffirm the board members commitment.

Mr. Bundschu moved, Ms. Keavney second that the CTHSS board reaffirm their commitment regarding the implementation of the Common Core State Standard.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Torres plans to invite teachers to a future board meeting to discuss the Common Core implementation.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

Ms. Keavney reported that the committee met on January, 10, 2014, February 14, 2014 and March 14, 2014 and discussed the following items:

School Performance Indicators (SPI) – Classification Criteria

Sheff Update

Annual Report on the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion

Update on J.M. Wright Technical High School System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED)

Biotechnology Program at Norwich

Karen Eichstaedt will join the Quality and Policy committee meeting.

**B. Finance and Facilities**

Mr. Barrasso reported that the committee met on February 11, 2014 and March 11, 2014 and discussed the financial status of the school lunch program, the Governor's recommended budget expansion items for FY 2015, and the 2014-15 Healthy Food certification statement along with a school construction update.

**C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships**

There was no meeting of the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships committee. Mr. Vrabely thanked board members and the district's leadership for the work on the strategic plan.

**XI. Public Participation**

**XII. Adjourn**

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:25 p.m.

*Diane Curtis*

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant  
Connecticut Technical High School System