

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting April 15, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on April 15, 2014, at 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

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

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

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2015-19

Ms. Keavney-Maruca moved, Commissioner Palmer seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Item: III.A. Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2015-19.

RESOLVED, That the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, pursuant to Section 10-95i(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, approves the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2015-2019, and directs the Superintendent of Schools to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2015-19 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 March 18, 2014 meeting be approved.

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

The board considered item X. (Committee Reports at this time).

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that the committee met on April 11, 2014. Superintendent Torres invited teachers and industry partners and Ms. Heidi Balch, Education Consultant to speak to the committee members about the CTHSS Hairdressing/Cosmetology Programs in the district.

Ms. Keavney-Maruca also reported that the committee recommended approval of the reauthorization of the Arts, Audio/Video Technology Communications cluster which includes: Digital Media, Sound Production, Graphics Technology, Information Systems Technology, Electronics Technology, Pre-Electrical Engineering and Audio/Video Technology.

B. Finance and Facilities

There was no report on Finance and Facilities

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

There was no meeting of the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships committee.

The board considered item VII.A. (Items Requiring Action) at this time.

VI. Items Requiring Action

A. CTHSS Trade Reauthorization of the Arts, Audio/Video Technology Communications Cluster

Superintendent Torres presented the Trade Reauthorization of the Arts, Audio/Video Technology Communications Cluster. The CTHSS is required by Connecticut General Statutes to schedule a trade reauthorization of all programs every five years. The Audio/Video Technology

Communications Cluster is slated to be submitted to the State Board of Education for their approval at the May 7, 2014 Board Meeting. The presentation included the comprehensive process involved to develop the Trade Reauthorization aligning business and industry and input from both internal and external stakeholders. The presentation also included a description of each of these trade technologies along with Department of Labor projections and wages, and the design of the report to now align with career and technical education (CTE) and industry standards. Graduation follow-up data will be gathered for the class of 2014 and the Superintendent will report back to the committee in August, 2014 with an update.

The board members engaged in a discussion about the reauthorization including, alignment to CTE curriculum changes over time, examining broader exposure of CTE programs and consistency with the common language and incorporating the language into the Strategic Plan.

Ms. Keavney-Maruca moved, Ms. Palmer seconded, that the committee agrees to recommend to the State Board of Education the approval of the reauthorization of the following trades:

Digital Media formally Media Production from January 2014 to January 2019
Sound Production formally Music Production from January 2014 to January 2019
Graphics Technology from January 2014 to January 2019
Information Systems Technology from January 2014 to January 2019
Electronics Technology from January 2014 to January 2019
Pre-Electrical Engineering from January 2014 to January 2019
Audio/Video Technology 2014 to January 2019

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Trade Reauthorization Report is included in the official file of this meeting.

The board considered Item VIII (Items for Discussion) at this time.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Student Leadership Program

The Student Leadership Program involves students in meaningful ways both in and beyond the classroom by providing opportunities for them to demonstrate their talents, skills, and interests while continuing to develop new skills. W. F. Kaynor Technical High School's Leadership Development Course seeks to:

- Identify, promote, and provide experiences to support the development of the competencies associated with effective leadership.
- Provide students with opportunities to realize their full potential and to examine their personal values, talents, and passions.
- Prepare students to be engaged in ethical and shared leadership for the common good.

With focus on:

- Individual - Enhance one's ability to facilitate small group activities, learn about team dynamics, and work on presentation skills.
- School - Serve as resources, role models and peer educators within the school building while enhancing program and event planning skills.
- Community - Increase awareness and understanding of the needs of our community by providing opportunities to make personal connections with professionals within our communities and develop networking skills; participate in service learning projects to empower young people to seek to make positive changes in their communities.

Superintendent Torres introduced to the board members, W. F. Kaynor Technical High School staff Mr. Telesca, Principal, Kathryn Patrick, Work Based Learning and Teen Leadership Educator, and three students (John Sarandrea, Sherene Francis, and Jakar Stallings) who spoke to the board about their experience in the Student Leadership Program. Mr. Telesca, Ms. Patrick shared some of their recent accomplishments and indicators of positive student outcomes with the board members.

Mr. Telesca and Ms. Patrick responded to questions the board members raised about the leadership program including curriculum, student enrollment, absentee numbers, graduation rates, and in school suspension rates. Discussion also included climate, outreach skills, and soft skills. The presentation was well received and the board members thanked everyone for their hard work.

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

B. Implementation of the Common Core State Standards

Superintendent Torres introduced to the board members, Lisa Hylwa, Principal of H. C. Wilcox THS, Nikitoula Menounos, Principal of Norwich THS, David Telesca, Principal of W. F. Kaynor THS and the following instructors: Donna Risolo, Vinal THS; Robyn Baeder, Henry Abbott THS; and Susan Loud, Eli Whitney THS who provided a brief overview of the Connecticut Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts. Their presentation included: the introduction to the professional learning system and the development of the CoreSmart; teams including process and product; a summary of module one; examples of what common core looks like in the classroom, what teachers want, and Ms. Loud's role on the Governor's Common Core task force and how the level of professional development in the district has provided to teachers.

The staff and board members discussed: standardization, next steps, data collection, delivery system, coaching, delivering professional development and time built in for teacher collaboration.

The board members thanked everyone for all of their hard work and were very appreciative of the time everyone took to speak to the board today. Mr. Trefry especially thanked Dr. St. Onge for all of her work behind the scenes.

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

The board considered Item VI. (Report of the Superintendent of Schools) at this time.

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Plan

Superintendent Torres announced some edits to the strategic plan and mission statement based on feedback after the last board meeting. Mr. Trefry received a general consensus from the board members for approval to send the mission and foundational imperatives to all stakeholders for review and comment. The next steps and task over the coming weeks will be to determine key strategies for the three overarching goals and a crosswalk between the board's suggested strategies and the blueprint document. The three goals are: Enhanced employer engagement and alignment to industry need; alignment of K-12, post-secondary education and adult systems; and flexibility, responsiveness and innovation.

The timeline is to have by July, 2014 the final strategic plan completed.

CTHSS Annual Art Show

The CTHSS will hold their fourth annual student art show exhibit from May 1st through June 1st at the Bushnell Promenade Gallery. The opening reception will be held Thursday May 1st from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM.

Vinal Technical High School Electrical Department Current News

Superintendent Torres shared with the board members Vinal Technical High School's first issue of their newsletter.

Global Workplace Workforce Initiative

Superintendent Torres shared with the board members the Foundation Global Workplace Workforce Initiative that highlights the partnership with the Facilities Management Program at Wright Tech.

OPM – Reinstatement of Automatic Refill

Superintendent Torres thanked OPM for the approval of automatic refill of additional CTHSS Instructional Positions (Social Workers, Psychologists, and Dean of Students). She is pleased with the outcome and the morale in the schools has improved.

Centralized Student Data Job Placement System

Superintendent Torres reported that the CTHSS is in the process of establishing a shared data base among students and employers for this coming school year. Department of Labor's Commissioner Sharon Palmer offered to partner with the CTHSS.

CTHSS Career Day April 23, 2014

CTHSS career day will be held on April 23, 2014 from 8:30 am – 11:30 am and 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 777 JATC 450 Murdock Avenue, Meriden CT. Students will have an opportunity to meet and speak with the representatives of registered apprenticeship construction programs and learn how to get into a registered program and participate in hands on activities.

IX. Report of the Chair

Chairman Trefry spoke about the edits made to the Mission Statement and Foundational Imperatives of the Strategic Plan based on board member's feedback.

XI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XII. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System