

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – May 15, 2018

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on May 15, 2018 at W.F. Kaynor Technical High School, 43 Tompkins Street, Waterbury, CT.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson
Andrea Comer
Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Karen Eichstaedt
Commissioner Scott Jackson
Commissioner Catherine Smith
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Peter Hoecklin
Gina Chiarella

II. Public Participation

III. Welcome

Hosting of Today’s Meeting

Chairman Trefry welcomed Board members and guests and thanked Principal David Telesca for hosting today’s meeting and for the tour of the Electrical Program. The Board members were impressed with their presentation and thanked the instructors and students for sharing their work. Mr. Telesca welcomed the Board members.

Mr. Telesca introduced the following 12th grade students: Samantha Plourde (Hairdressing), Sidney Wilson-Asiedu (Auto Collision), and Kyle Graveline (Electrical) who spoke about their experience at Kaynor Tech and shared their plans after they graduate. The Board members thanked Ms. Plourde, Mr. Wilson-Asiedu and Mr. Graveline for sharing their experience and congratulated them on their work.

Platt Tech Student Recognition CT Science & Engineering Fair “Energize CT, EE Smarts”

Superintendent Wihbey introduced the following teachers and students who were recognized for finishing first place at the Quinnipiac University 2018 CT Science and Engineering Fair Category, “Energize CT, EE Smarts”:

Christian Ramos - 11th Plumbing Student
Christian Haupt- 11th Plumbing Student
Taylor Krieder- 10th Carpentry Student
Jessica Stamp – Science Instructor/Green Step Program Advisor

The students presented their grey water filtration system invention (a water re-use system) during the Board meeting. The Board members were impressed with their presentation and congratulated them on their victory. The Board members wished them continued success. The students also qualified to compete in Oswego, NY at GENIUS Olympiad which is a national competition.

The students and teachers were presented a plaque and took a photo with the board members who were in attendance.

IV. Consent Agenda

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the March 20, 2018 and April 24, 2018 CTECS Board Meetings be approved.

Consideration of Minutes of the March 20, 2018 and April 24, 2018 CTECS Board Meetings

Vote:	In Favor:	Comer, De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Jackson, Smith, Trefry
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Keavney (4-24-18)
	Absent:	Chiarella, Hoecklin, Walker

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VII. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Discussion

A. Budget Update

Mr. James Chasse, CTECS Education Consultant provided an update on the latest information impacting the district's operating budget for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19.

He informed the Board that the district will finish the year with a surplus of approximately \$1.6 M. Of the \$1.6 M, approximately \$1.3 M is from the delayed transfer of SDE staff to the CTECS. The difference (\$.3M) is the net result of delayed refill of vacancies (\$3M) less the cost of maintaining the CTECS business offices with a business manager and an assistant business manager.

The district's FY 2018 operating budget was reduced by \$2.7 million in anticipation of the elimination of 31 full-time positions in the school's business offices.

For FY 2019, Mr. Chasse is projecting a deficit of approximately \$9.1M which includes a \$3.4 M shortfall as a result of the 2017 SEBAC agreement and \$5.7 M needed to reduce the full-time general fund vacancy count down to 65.

Superintendent Wihbey and the school principals are requesting additional new positions for the 2018-19 school-year which if approved, could increase the deficit by an additional \$1.2M.

CTECS continues to be concerned about the staff retirements and the potential impact of the Rowland settlements on the operating budget for FY 2019 and beyond.

Closeout meetings were conducted during the past month with principals and school business managers and they were asked about new position needs. The net impact of that exercise was an additional 15 positions. If ultimately approved, the district's desired held position count would be reduced from 65 to 50 but resulting in the projected deficit increasing to as much as \$10.3M.

Mr. Chasse discussed options that might be available in order to fill a few critical positions without additional funding. Options included: transferring a portion of the payroll costs to the Extension Fund. (i.e. two Aviation programs and Bristol TEC). Another option, would be to increase tuition and fees. Implementing additional increases in tuition and fees would generate additional revenue into the extension fund and enable for additional transfer of payroll costs from the general fund. Other options would be to transfer payroll costs to the state and/or federal school lunch /breakfast accounts. Mr. Chasse also pointed out the legislation that speaks to the closing of programs and schools.

Questions/Discussion included: Board Chair Robert Trefry questioned if the funds to become a separate state agency were still in the budget. Mr. Chasse replied that the district's operating budget includes approximately \$1.7M for the transfer of 20 staff members from the State Department of Education to the CTECS Central Office. The budget does not include funding for the additional 90+ positions that would be required to become a separate state agency nor does it include the funding for the hiring of an Executive Director. At this point in time, only eight of the 20 transfers have taken place resulting in additional unbudgeted costs to the SDE budget while representing savings to the CTECS budget.

A copy of the Expenditure and Revenue Report and CTECS Expenditure report is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Staffing for Next Year

The Superintendent spoke about the following challenges and the misalignment between the enrollment acceptance timelines and the Development of the master schedule and the budget approval process. Among the issues created are the large number of instructional substitutes to service the students that were offered enrollment back in February/March and to satisfy the master schedule which was developed in March, April and May. As a result, CTECS loses out on some highly qualified candidates caused by the misalignment.

The Superintendent and SDE leadership continue to work with OPM to address the district's staffing needs and to LEAN the position refill and hiring process.

Superintendent Wihbey continues to work with school leaders to identify opportunities for merging classes in order to redirect staffing in order to fill critical instructional shortfalls in other schools.

The Board members requested a detailed vacancy analysis and its impact for the June 2018 Board meeting.

During September, the Board will need to take action on the Superintendent's Biennial Operating and Capital Budget request for fiscal year's 2019-20 and 2020-21.

There was a brief discussion around involving local and state police on school matters. There will be more in-depth discussion on this matter at the Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy.

Other Matters

Student Performance Index (SPI)

Superintendent Wihbey reviewed with the Board Members the Student Performance Index (SPI) that was included in their packets. He explained that this is a Matrix that all schools in the State of CT are measured by the SDE. Superintendent Wihbey pulled these into a growth and achievement chart that considers both achievement and improvement looking at whether or not schools are moving across from declining, maintaining, to improving but also the level of performance. He also provided the district data and all of the measures that go into the SPI. Superintendent Wihbey will be using this data as part of the Principal Evaluation process for the 2018-19 School Year.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported that the Legislature passed the postponement of the Separation of CTECS from the SDE to July 2019 in order to allow for more time to work on the resources.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

There was no report on Quality and Policy

B. Outreach and Finance

There was no report on Outreach and Finance

X. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XI. Adjourn

The CTECS Board adjourned its meeting at 2:35 PM

Diane Curtis

Prepared by:

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