

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

May 21, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on May 21, 2013, at the E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, New Britain, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson
John Barrasso
Stephan Bundschu
*Matthew Nemerson
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Dr. Lillian Ortiz
Sharon Palmer
*Catherine Smith

Absent: Fitz G. Walker Jr.

Mr. Trefry thanked Dr. Moran, Principal of E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, for hosting the Board meeting. Dr. Moran introduced students Zachary Roy and Johanna Moreno who shared their post-graduation plans.

II. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

III. Items for Discussion

A. Current Trends in Career and Technical Education

Mr. Trefry introduced Dr. Nancy Hoffman, Vice President and Senior Advisor at Jobs for the Future; Dr. James Stone, Director of the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education; Dr. Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President for Career and Technical Education at the Southern Regional Education Board; and Richard Blais, Vice President of Project Lead the Way; who are notable experts in career and technical education and were invited to speak to the CTHSS Board and guests about the current trends in career and technical education.

*Mr. Nemerson arrived at 1:17 p.m.

Dr. Hoffman presented a PowerPoint to the CTHSS Board entitled, "How Strong Vocational Education Systems Transition Young People into the World of Work."

Dr. Stone presented a PowerPoint to the CTHSS Board entitled, "Integration of Academic and Career Technical Education within a Credential Based Pathway Framework: A Few Thoughts."

Dr. Bottoms presented a PowerPoint to the CTHSS Board entitled, "the 21 Century Vision for Technical High Schools."

*Commissioner Smith arrived at 2:20 p.m.

The speakers responded to questions the Board members raised about the current trends in career and technical education. It was recommended by Dr. Hoffman that the CTHSS Board define the problems and issues within the CTHSS as they undergo the development of the District's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Trefry thanked the speakers for attending the Board meeting to share their perspectives.

Discussion ensued among Board members with regard to how best to incorporate the information provided by the three presenters into strategic planning for the CTHSS. This item will appear as an agenda item at the next CTHSS Board meeting for further discussion.

A copy of each of the PowerPoint presentations is included in the official file of the meeting.

B. CTHSS Proposal for Welding Expansion at Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, Groton, CT

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced John Murphy, CTHSS Manufacturing Consultant, to the CTHSS Board members. At the April 16, 2013, CTHSS Board meeting, Mr. Murphy was requested to develop a short- and long-term action plan with attention focused on an adult program in Welding in Groton and a partnership with Electric Boat. Mr. Murphy distributed a handout to the Board members entitled "Welding and Metal Fabrication Training at Grasso Tech in Groton."

Mr. Murphy presented to the Board members a proposal for a welding expansion at the Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, Groton, CT. He reported that the CTHSS had five positive responses from graduating seniors willing to relocate to work for Electric Boat to meet their workforce needs. Mr. Murphy responded to comments and questions the Board members raised about expanding welding in Groton. Mr. Elliot Ginsberg from the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology spoke to the Board about the need for welders and local employers' needs.

Mr. Murphy was asked to follow up with Al Richmond, CTHSS Facilities and Planning Consultant, regarding the infrastructure and equipment needs of Grasso, and to provide an update at the next CTHSS Board meeting.

A copy of the welding expansion proposal handout is included in the official file of this meeting.

IV. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Nemerson moved, Ms. Ortiz seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2013, meeting of the Board.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry announced the resignation of CTHSS Board Member Susan Davis. The Governor's Office has been notified.

He stated that the RFPs for a search firm for the CTHSS Superintendent search and a strategic planning consultant for the CTHSS have been approved by the Office of Policy and Management. The two RFPs will shortly be released for public bidding.

Mr. Trefry noted that he is arranging to have a speaker at the next CTHSS Board meeting, Melissa Silberman, New York City Executive Director of the Office of Postsecondary Readiness.

VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

Update on the Connecticut Technical High School System Budget

Interim Superintendent Torres provided an update on the budget. The CTHSS has been projecting a budget deficit of approximately \$500,000. Interim Superintendent Torres thanked the Board and Commissioner Pryor for their support in getting the 22 health and safety positions approved. As a result of not being able to fill key positions, the CTHSS has maintained an actual vacancy count of 40-45 full-time and 20-25 part-time positions throughout the fiscal year. This is a very important time of year to actively recruit the very best candidates. Interim Superintendent Torres will continue to keep the Board updated.

J.M. Wright Technical High School

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that the recently approved J.M. Wright Advisory Committee is meeting on May 22, 2013, and is looking forward to having conversations with the Stamford community regarding the vision for J.M. Wright.

Dr. Torres indicated that the reopening of J.M. Wright presents a prime opportunity to carry out some of the ideas from today's meeting. CTHSS Central Office consultants are looking into the needs for J.M. Wright, which will included as part of the asset mapping of the school.

E-House Ribbon Cutting at Platt Technical High School

Interim Superintendent invited the CTHSS Board members to join the CTHSS on June 13, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. for the official opening of the fourth E-house (including a tour of the school's Construction Technologies Departments).

CTHSS Graduation

Interim Superintendent asked CTHSS Board members to consider attending these events.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Process

Ms. Keavney reported that at the May 10, 2013 meeting, the committee members met with representatives from human resources and affirmative action on the hiring process. They also discussed the donation process and Mr. Bundschu is undergoing a trial run of the state's process to donate materials. She also reported that Bristol, Vinal, E.C. Goodwin and Windham Technical High Schools underwent their decennial NEASC visits.

B. Finance and Facilities

Mr. Barrasso reported that at the May 14, 2013, meeting, the committee members spoke about the adult program and staff shortages awaiting the budget as well as the budget mitigation.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

There was no committee report.

X. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

XI. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

XII. Adjourn

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned its meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant