

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting June 17, 2014

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on June 17, 2014, at H. H. Ellis Technical High School, Danielson, 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. John Barrasso
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Mr. Stephan Bundschu
Mr. Matthew Nemerson
Commissioner Sharon Palmer
Mr. Fitz Walker

Mr. Trefry thanked Dr. Brian Mignault, Principal of H. H. Ellis Technical High School, for hosting the Board Meeting. Dr. Mignault thanked the Board members for their support and introduced five of his students: Jacob Piscia, Jacques Demarais, Gennifer Berthiaume, William Bradley and Elizabeth Patton who shared their experience at Ellis Tech and their post-secondary plans with the board.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

IV. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting be approved.

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

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Torres acknowledged H.H. Ellis THS, Assistant Principals, Angela Corretin and Rafael Calixto.

Ellis National Automotive Technicians Foundation (NATEF) Reaccreditation

Superintendent Torres introduced Brendan Smith, Ellis Tech Automotive Technology Department Head and Stephan Zurowsk, Ellis Tech Automotive Technology Instructor who spoke to the Board members about the NATEF accreditation process. Superintendent Torres congratulated Mr. Smith and Mr. Zurowski on the fine job they did on their NATEF accreditation. This accreditation happens every five years and they were successfully accredited. She thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the students and the Automotive Technology Program at Ellis Tech.

Connecticut Clean Trades Summit

Central Connecticut State University hosted the first annual Connecticut Clean Trades Summit on May 29, 2014. Students from E.C. Goodwin THS will be presenting to the Board members later in today's meeting their winning research project.

J.M. Wright Technical High School Update

On June 3, 2014, the CTHSS held a legislative breakfast where business and industry partners including unions, representatives from several of the companies that have sponsored Wright Tech, including Starwood Hotels, Priceline.com, Pepperidge Farm, Fairway Market, Stamford Hospital, Toyota of Stamford, The Home Builders and Remodelers Association and the International Facilities Management Association-CT toured the school. The Stamford delegation members, Stamford's Mayor, and the Chamber of Commerce also attended the breakfast and toured the school. There was media presence highlighting the Wright Tech project. J.M. Wright THS is scheduled to open on August 27, 2014. Mr. Trefry congratulated Superintendent Torres on this great event.

Celebrating Excellence in Education

On June 4, 2014 Governor Malloy, the State Board of Education and Commissioner Pryor hosted a reception at the Governor's residence to honor exemplary individuals who advance in public education in our state. A.I. Prince was proud to cater this event and the CTHSS Teacher of the Year, Patricia Mann was in attendance.

Connecticut Employment and Training Commission (CETC)

On June 5, 2014 Superintendent Torres attended the CETC meeting along with Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Smith and looks forward to serving on the committee to benefit the district.

U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney Visits Windham Technical High School, Willimantic, CT

On June 6, 2014 U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney visited Windham THS and toured the shops to see what Windham Tech has to offer especially for the future manufacturing workforce. Plans were shared to expand manufacturing.

Naugatuck Valley Community College (NVCC) Partners with the CTHSS

On June 9 and June 13, 2014 Superintendent Torres met with NVCC and formed partnerships for Henry Abbott THS and Kaynor THS to create career pathways for CTHSS students.

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman Visits Henry Abbott Technical High School, Danbury, CT

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman visited Abbott Technical High School in Danbury on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. The Lieutenant Governor was taken on a tour of four of the technical programs at the school: Electrical, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, Manufacturing Technology, and Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing. Lieutenant Governor Wyman was very impressed with the students and the shops and reaffirmed her support to the school.

KBE Building Corporation Awards Scholarships to Connecticut Technical High School Students

In a special ceremony, KBE Building Corporation awarded \$17,000 in scholarships to 34 students from the 17 Connecticut Technical High Schools across the state. The presentation which took place on June 9, 2014 was held at Goodwin Technical High School in New Britain. Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman attended this event. The scholarships were awarded to those students who demonstrate academic excellence and are pursuing post-high school education in the fields of construction, architecture, engineering, or any building trade such as plumbing, electrical, and mechanical.

VII. Items Requiring Action

A. Dedication of the A.I. Prince Gymnasium

Superintendent Torres received a request from Mr. William Chaffin, Principal of A. I. Prince Technical High School, to name the Prince Tech gymnasium after a well-known athletic director and long term employee of the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS), Mr. Mark Snyder. Appropriate spaces in CTHSS facilities or campus have been dedicated several times in the past to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the CTHSS and its development into an institution that is recognized for excellence. Superintendent Torres supports the request and the next step of the dedication approval process is to seek the support and approval of the CTHSS Board.

Mr. Barrasso moved, Ms. Eichstaedt seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, approve the dedication of the A. I. Prince Technical High School Gymnasium in Hartford, CT in honor of Mr. Mark Snyder.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Dedication of the A.I. Prince Gymnasium Executive Summary is included in the official file of this meeting.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Project Learning Tree – Green Schools Presentation

Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Ray Mencio and Mr. Pat Ciarleglio, CTHSS Education Consultants. Mr. Mencio introduced Dr. Mary Moran, Principal of E.C. Goodwin Technical High School and her students who took first prize for their presentation at the first-ever Connecticut Clean Trades Summit held at CCSU on May 29th. Mr. Mencio gave the Board members a brief overview of the program.

The students presented to the CTHSS Board members their findings and recommendations from a year-long investigation of their school's energy usage and sustainability practices as part of the Connecticut Clean Trades Program. Students presenting were: Deanna Rivera, Kevin Simonides, Ultra Violet Martens, Tom Roy, Marc Talleos, Vincent DiMatteo, Agustin Cruz, Michael Ortiz, Kynei Tatum, Devon Almodovar, Jeremy Rivera, Alberto Santiago and Thomas DaShaun. Goodwin Tech trade instructors in attendance were: Mr. Steve Donaghy, Stan Kulack, Brent McCartney and Michael Scott.

The Connecticut Clean Trades Program is a two-year pilot program for construction trade students at Norwich, Ella T. Grasso (Groton), E.C. Goodwin (New Britain), Platt (Milford) and Henry Abbott (Danbury) Technical High Schools. It provides a hands-on introduction to future careers in the energy industry, and offers students the opportunity to make their schools and communities greener.

Students from the five schools will continue the program next year as a community service learning project, where they help facilities in their community conserve energy and reduce energy costs. Students will receive sales training and learn how to make effective presentations to community representatives.

Mr. Trefry and the board members congratulated students on their presentation and thanked Principal Moran on a great job.

B. Update on Strategic Plan

Mission and Foundational Imperatives

Superintendent Torres presented the revised mission and foundational Imperatives with emphasis on a new addition: Foundational Imperative number 3. It reads as follows: *The CTHSS strives to recruit, retain, and advance students and staff of all backgrounds who share a wide range of perspectives and who contribute to the system's core mission of creating a talented and diverse workforce for the state of Connecticut.*

Commissioner Smith moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded that the CTHSS Board approve the additional foundational imperative that reflects the statement on cultural diversity.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Revised Goals

Superintendent Torres presented to the Board members a PowerPoint update on four of the CTHSS Strategic Plan's goals based on stakeholder feedback. The four revised goals presented were:

1. Enhanced Employer Engagement and Alignment with Industry Needs
2. Alignment of K-12, Post-Secondary, and Adult systems
3. Flexibility, Responsiveness and Innovation
4. Professional Capital

The Board members engaged in a discussion on the revised goals. Further discussion will occur at the July 15, 2014 CTHSS Board meeting.

A copy of the CTHSS Update on Strategic Plan PowerPoint on three goals and the Strategic Plan Mission and Foundational Imperatives are included in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Chair

Chairman Trefry had no items to report.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that the committee met on June 13, 2014. The committee had a discussion on the CTHSS Graduation rates which continue to surpass the state in all areas. The board acknowledged the hard work of teachers and administrators.

The committee also had a discussion on restructuring Human Resources for CTHSS needs. Mr. Trefry asked for a motion at this time to support the restructure of Human Resources for CTHSS needs. The committee passed a motion to support the restructure.

Ms. Keavney moved, Ms. Eichstaedt seconded that the CTHSS Board members support the restructuring plan for CTHSS needs as recommended by the Quality and Policy Committee at their June 13, 2014 meeting and directs the Superintendent take action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Outreach and Finance

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met on June 17, 2014 just prior to today's board meeting. The committee had a discussion on the CTHSS Work Based Learning for the past years, by district, by school. The committee also had a discussion on the strategic plan.

XI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XII. Adjourn

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

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