

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

June 18, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on June 18, 2013, at the Bristol Technical Education Center, Bristol, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson
John Barrasso
Stephan Bundschu
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Dr. Lillian Ortiz
Sharon Palmer
Catherine Smith

Absent: Matthew Nemerson
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson
Fitz Walker

II. Public Participation

Ms. Lori Pelletier, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), expressed concerns on behalf of AFL-CIO regarding the implementation of OSHA 30 training for students. Ms. Pelletier provided the Board members a letter and materials regarding the OSHA 30 training course. Interim Superintendent Torres will schedule a meeting with Ms. Pelletier to address her concerns.

A copy of the AFL-CIO letter and handout is included in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board did not meet in executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mr. Barrasso moved, Dr. Ortiz seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2013, meeting of the Board.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Consideration of Credit Recovery Tuition Fees

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that at the June 11, 2013, subcommittee meeting on Finance and Facilities, the committee members agreed unanimously to recommend to the CTHSS Board the approval of the credit recovery tuition fees. Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Mary Skelly, CTHSS Education Consultant for Social Studies, Early Child Care and Music and thanked her for attending today's meeting and her hard work that went into this proposal.

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that presently the CTHSS offers credit recovery as an option at our Title I schools. Board approval of this proposal would expand its credit recovery offerings to the eleven (11) non-Title I schools, allowing students from those schools to make up credit lost as a result of course failures. These credits are required for graduation and grade promotion. It is standard operating procedure for districts to charge fees and tuition for credit recovery. The CTHSS fee schedule is very competitive in comparison to other districts that range from \$100 to \$425.

Mr. Barrasso, moved, Dr. Ortiz, seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approves the Proposed Tuition and Fee Schedule for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 as recommended by the Finance and Facilities subcommittee and directs the Interim Superintendent to take the necessary action.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Discussion

Mr. Trefry thanked Joyce Mowrey, Principal of Bristol Technical Education Center, for hosting the Board meeting. Ms. Mowrey spoke to the Board members about the Bristol model and how unique Bristol TEC is in comparison to the other technical high schools. Bristol TEC is a small school with 170 students in grades eleven through post-graduate. Students come to Bristol TEC from 27 towns to learn a trade, and take academic classes. Students remain a part of their sending schools and can participate each day in sporting events and extracurricular activities at their home school districts. A Bristol TEC senior will receive a diploma from his or her sending school and still participate in the year-end certificate ceremony. When students graduate from Bristol TEC, they receive a 900 hour certificate which equates to between 8 and 20 college credits outside of Connecticut. Currently, out of the 138 students graduating, 58 students already have contracts in place with employers. Ms. Mowrey responded to questions the Board members had about the Bristol TEC model.

A. CTHSS Proposal for Welding Expansion (Infrastructure Needs) at Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, Groton, CT

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced John Murphy, CTHSS Education Consultant for the Manufacturing Cluster, to the CTHSS Board members.

As was requested by the Board at their previous meeting on May 21, 2013, Mr. Murphy provided an update regarding a plan to reestablish an adult education program in welding and metal fabrication at Grasso THS that would be available for retraining displaced workers from Southeastern Connecticut.

Since the last CTHSS Board meeting on May 21, 2013, Mr. Murphy has made two site visits to Grasso to review the proposed shop layout. Additional capital funding will be needed for facility upgrades. The Board members will advocate for funding during the next legislative session. Mr. Murphy also reported he has been meeting with representatives of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board (EWIB) in order to include all welding and metal fabrication employers in the area. The Board members provided their input during the discussion such as timelines, budgeting, capacity, staff impact, and how they can replicate the Bristol model as they look at Groton. It was agreed that the proposal to expand the welding and metal fabrication be reviewed by the Outreach and Stakeholder Partnerships Committee during its monthly subcommittee meetings.

B. Discussion of the Presentation at the May 21, 2013, Board Meeting

Mr. Trefry welcomed comments from the Board members about the May 21, 2013, Board meeting. Interim Superintendent Torres thanked the Board members for their thoughtful recommendations from the May 21, 2013, Board meeting. Interim Superintendent Torres summarized the recommendations and suggestions offered in four principles:

1. Alignment - How do we make sure we are addressing the 21st century skills and stay cutting edge with our curriculum and the needs of business and industry?
2. Collaboration – Articulation agreements, ongoing conversations, blanket agreements with the community colleges.
3. Accountability – Developing meaningful assessments for trade and academic. How do we know and define a student is ready for college and career?
4. Innovation – How can we stay at the forefront of career and technical education? A marketing strategy is a topic for a future conversation.

These four core principles are part of the National Blueprint for Career Technical Education and the CTHSS has adopted these as part of its work. The CTHSS is in the process of drafting a similar blueprint for the system that will guide the work for next year.

Board members look forward to the final draft of the blueprint for the CTHSS and indicated that the district was headed in the right direction with these core principles to guide the work ahead.

B. Update on Request for Proposals (RFP's) Superintendent Search and Strategic Planning Consultant

Emily Byrne provided an update to the Board members on the proposals from firms for the Superintendent Search and Strategic Planning Consultant. The scoring groups and the Commissioner will be reviewing the proposals. It is possible we may go out to bid again as there was only one proposal received for the Superintendent Search Consultant.

VII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported on the following:

The CTHSS is exploring the possibility of expanding its business cluster to address the needs of employers such as GE and AETNA. Presently, the CTHSS is setting up conversations with representatives from these companies and more information will follow at a future meeting. Mr. Trefry asked Board members to share any connections/resources they might have in these areas to further strengthen our efforts.

Commissioner Smith mentioned the need to continue focusing on "soft skills". Ms. Keavney-Maruca and Interim Superintendent Torres clarified that these skills are addressed in the Student Leadership course and embedded in all areas of the curriculum. Ms. Keavney-Maruca mentioned Kaynor Tech as a model school for this program.

VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

Camp MOE Project, Torrington, CT

CTHSS students remembered the tragedy at Sandy Hook by working together to help a summer camp in Torrington.

E-House and Project Learning Tree (Check date below....its before this meeting!)

CTHSS celebrated its grand opening of their fourth E-House at Platt Technical High School in Milford. Interim Superintendent Torres invited the Board members to join the CTHSS on June 13, 2013 for the official opening including a tour of the school's construction technologies. Representatives from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Department of Labor (DOL), Mr. Trefry, and Ms. Keavney Maruca participated in the grand opening.

Commissioner Daniel Estey of DEEP will be invited to attend the next CTHSS Board meeting to speak on the CTHSS' E-House program. Also, Judy Resnick from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) will be invited to discuss the Project Learning Tree initiative at five (5) of the technical high schools.

Teacher of the Year and Other Recognitions

The CTHSS has announced its 2013-14 Teachers of the Year from each of the schools. One instructor will be selected later this month to represent the school system in the statewide competition. With the Board's permission, Interim Superintendent Torres plans to invite the teachers to a Board meeting in the fall to recognize them. In addition, she would like to recognize other teachers throughout the year.

AAA Ford Hertz Competition, Dearborn, Michigan

Members of Platt Tech's automotive shop participated in the 2013 AAA Ford Hertz competition in Dearborn, Michigan where they finished in the top ten nationwide in the hands-on competition. They also finished first in the nation on the combined written score.

J.M. Wright Technical High School

On May 22, 2013, the Wright Tech Ad Hoc Advisory Committee had its first meeting. Chairman Trefry attended this meeting with Interim Superintendent Torres. The charge for the committee is to act as advisers to the CTHSS Board and the district administration on the reopening of Wright Tech. Time was spent discussing possible partnerships in the community, recruitment efforts, and the construction timeline.

In the coming months, the CTHSS will continue to establish connections with business and industry in the area by offering curricula for their review and input and exploring work-based learning opportunities for the entering students. With regard to the physical plant, Interim Superintendent Torres reported that the construction is full speed ahead and the building will be turned over to the district in the spring of 2014 to finalize preparations for the fall 2014 grand opening.

On Tuesday, May 28th, Interim Superintendent Torres presented the Wright Tech plan to the Stamford Board of Education and looks forward to partnering with the Stamford Public Schools on recruitment efforts. The CTHSS is planning a fall recruitment fair for families in the southwestern area of the state. This will be an opportunity for parents and students to gain a better understanding of the trades and programs to be offered at Wright Tech. The next steps include:

- Finalizing the recruitment plan with Stamford Public Schools and adjacent districts
- Finalizing the 9-14 pathways with Norwalk Community College
- Meeting with UCONN Stamford (this summer) to discuss the potential of 9-14 pathways for students in Digital Media, Early Childhood, and/or Financial Services.
- Hiring a visionary leader for the school by the Fall of 2013
- Setting up a date and location for the Fall 2013 recruitment fair

Mr. Trefry thanked Interim Superintendent on the great job she did in Stamford.

Graduation Ceremonies

Interim Superintendent Torres thanked the Board members for attending our graduation ceremonies.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney reported that at the June 13, 2013, meeting the Committee members had a discussion regarding the reproductive health policy and the hiring and fiscal policy. She also reported that the Interim Superintendent provided an agenda review update.

B. Finance and Facilities

Mr. Barrasso reported that at the June 11, 2013, meeting the Committee members discussed the funding approval for payroll shortages. He reported that the bond commission is meeting on June 28, 2013, at which time the CTHSS is expected to receive another allocation of funding. The CTHSS received approval to refill four vacant Assistant Principal positions. The committee discussed credit recovery tuition fees and agreed to recommend that the CTHSS Board approve this proposal.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

The committee plans to meet for a short discussion after today's Board meeting. There will not be a quorum.

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 3:10 p.m.

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