

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Meeting July 15, 2014

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

### **I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 Sharon Palmer  
Commissioner Catherine Smith\*

Absent: Mr. Stephan Bundschu  
Mr. Matthew Nemerson  
Mr. Fitz Walker

### **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 June 17, 2014 meeting be approved.

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

## **VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

### **Teacher Evaluations**

Superintendent Torres provided an update on the status of the new teacher evaluation plan and reported that all teachers have been evaluated with the new model. Evaluations were submitted to the State Department of Education. Modifications continue for next year. Administrator's end of year evaluations will be submitted as soon as data and other reports are completed.

### **CTHSS Strategic Plan Foundational Imperatives and Mission Statement Presented to the State Board of Education**

On Wednesday, July 9, 2014, Superintendent Torres presented to the State Board of Education the CTHSS Strategic Plan Foundational Imperatives and Mission Statement.

### **School Security Plans – P.A. 13-3, An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety.**

Starting July 1, 2014, each local and regional board of education must develop and implement a school security and safety plan for each of its schools. Working drafts have been completed by each Technical High School and Superintendent Torres reported we will be in compliance.

### **Scholarship Update**

Superintendent Torres reported that over \$7.4 Million in scholarships was awarded to the CTHSS 2014 graduates. She acknowledged what a great job the guidance counselors are doing in our schools.

### **Abbott THS Performs Major Electrical Work on Home in New Milford**

Superintendent Torres shared with the Board members a thank you letter from a home owner in New Milford, CT on an extensive electrical production job by Abbott THS. The students were respectful, worked in teams and worked well with each other. The Electrical Department Head Mr. George Ballard's broad knowledge and ability to get the information across to his students was of a high level of excellence.

### **Architectural Firm Pays Highest Compliment on A.I. Prince's E-House**

Superintendent Torres shared with the board a letter from Moser Pilon Nelson, Architectural firm who designed A.I. Prince THS. Regarding Prince's E-House, Moser Pilon Nelson was blown away by both what the students are doing and the way they are doing it. Their energy efficiency is state of the art and will help make the students eminently employable. Their engineers were especially impressed by the technical level of the work being taught as well as the end results.

### **SkillsUSA - National Leadership and Skills Conference**

SkillsUSA returned to Kansas City June 23-27, 2014 for the 50th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. The CTHSS had 18 events in the top ten and nine in the top twenty. Three CTHSS students earned a silver medal, five students earned a bronze medal, 19 students placed in the top ten and 12 students placed in the top twenty.

Superintendent Torres acknowledged Norwich THS student, Antonia Vargas, who will be serving as a 2014-2015 National Officer. This is the first National Officer Connecticut has had in almost 30 years.

Students will be honored at our September 16, 2014 CTHSS Board meeting.

### **Partnership Efforts with Sikorsky**

Superintendent Torres updated the Board members on the partnership efforts with Sikorsky. Superintendent Torres and Mr. Trefry toured Sikorsky on July 10, 2014 and had an opportunity meet with several of Sikorsky's representatives. Superintendent Torres and Mr. Trefry gained a better understanding of Sikorsky's needs here in CT. Some possible next steps discussed included: Partnering around curriculum development and design to ensure that we are aligned to their skill needs; opportunities for mentoring students and work based learning; training our teachers/staff in their production and management techniques and exploring evening training around airframe applications. The CTHSS has already entered into a *Memorandum of Understanding* with Sikorsky and they will be using the Stratford School of Aviation to train their employees here in CT starting in the fall. Sikorsky was previously busing their employees to New York for this training so the CTHSS is excited they can provide this service to them. Mr. Trefry thanked Commissioner Smith for setting up the meeting with Sikorsky.

### **Tour of Trumpf, Inc.**

Superintendent Torres toured Trumpf, Inc., on June 27, 2014. She indicated the CTHSS has much to learn from Trumpf specifically from their management techniques.

## **VII. Items Requiring Action**

### **A. Approval of the 2015 CTHSS Board Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Smith moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, approves the 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

Tuesday, January 20, 2015  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015  
Tuesday, March 17, 2015  
Tuesday, April 21, 2015  
Tuesday, May 19, 2015  
Tuesday, June 16, 2015  
Tuesday, July 21, 2015  
Tuesday, August 18, 2015 (If needed)  
Tuesday, September 15, 2015  
Tuesday, October 20, 2015  
Tuesday, November 17, 2015  
Tuesday, December 15, 2015

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

Motion carried unanimously.

## **B. CTHSS Strategic Plan**

From October 2013 through March 2014, the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Board engaged in a detailed Strategic Planning Process. The planning process utilized for the CTHSS Board began with the analysis of the Connecticut Technical High School System using information gathered from multiple stakeholder interviews and focus groups combined with the detailed data analysis of student performance, program performance and the labor market. Then an alignment analysis compared the “current state” of the Connecticut Technical High School System with national and international benchmarks to determine Areas of Focus for the system.

During a retreat in February 2014, the CTHSS Board enhanced their Mission Statement and came together around a set of principles, or Foundational Imperatives, to guide the selection of appropriate goals for the Strategic Plan. Based on the CTHSS Mission and Foundational Imperatives, Areas of Focus were refined into Goals that align with the strategic direction for the system, as determined by the Board.

At today’s CTHSS Board meeting, Superintendent Torres presented the draft Strategic Plan to the Board members for comment and discussion. Mr. Trefry welcomed comments and feedback from the board members. Mr. Trefry thanked the Board members for their thoughtful recommendations. Superintendent Torres was directed by the Board to incorporate their recommendations into the plan which will be finalized at the September 16, 2014 Board meeting with the metrics for success.

\*Commissioner Smith departed the meeting at 1:55 PM.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, approve the CTHSS Strategic Plan incorporating the Board’s suggested edits.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Trefry added that after the September 16, 2014 Board meeting, the next steps of the Strategic Planning Process will be the framework of outcomes and determine how much investment is needed to fund the plan and to translate into a legislative proposal.

Mr. Trefry applauded Superintendent Torres on her collaboration efforts with organizations and how this time consuming effort has paid off to make for a better school system. Superintendent Torres thanked the Board for their support and also publically thanked Dr. St. Onge for her assistance with the development of the plan.

A copy of the draft Strategic Plan is included in the official file of this meeting.

## **VIII. Items for Discussion**

There were no items for discussion.

**IX. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Trefry called to the Board members attention that their term is conterminous with the Governor's term and their term may be expiring. He is in the process of seeking clarification on this.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

Ms. Keavney-Maruca reported that the committee met on July 11, 2014. The committee had a discussion on the end of year discipline data and received an update on the Admissions Study.

**B. Outreach and Finance**

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met on July 15, 2014 just prior to today's board meeting. The committee had a discussion on the Strategic Plan and the district's operating and capital budget for fiscal 2015 and also discussed highlights of the accomplishments of the recently completed fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Mr. Vrabely thanked Superintendent Torres on her transparency and full disclosure of the budget along with the district demographic and performance data.

**XI. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**XII. Adjourn**

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:00 p.m.

*Diane Curtis*

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Connecticut Technical High School System