

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

## Draft Minutes of Meeting

July 16, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on July 16, 2013, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

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

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Commissioner Pryor and Board Chairperson Trefry, honored Board member Fitz Walker for his work with NAACP.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson  
John Barrasso  
Stephan Bundschu  
Patricia Keavney-Maruca  
Matthew Nemerson  
Sharon Palmer  
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson  
Fitz Walker

Absent: Dr. Lillian Ortiz  
Catherine Smith

### **II. Public Participation**

Mr. Andre Coup, former graduate of Oliver Wolcott, spoke to the Board in advocacy for robotic clubs in our technical high schools and concerns about our recruitment efforts and the need to inform middle school guidance counselors about the opportunity for students in the Technical High School System.

### **III. Executive Session**

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Mr. Vrabely, the Board voted unanimously to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the search process for superintendent of schools. Present in executive session were: John Barrasso, Emily Byrne, Stephan Bundschu, Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Matthew Nemerson, Sharon Palmer, Commissioner Pryor, Robert Trefry, Joseph Vrabely and Fitz Walker,

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn executive session and reconvene in public session at 3:45 p.m.

Ms. Palmer moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded that the CTHSS Board send a letter to the Office of Policy and Management requesting they allow the Assistant Superintendent position be filled on a permanent basis.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **IV. Consideration of Minutes**

Ms. Keavney moved, Ms. Palmer seconded, that the Board approve the Minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting of the Board.

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

Motioned carried by unanimous consent.

The Board considered agenda item VI.A. and VI.B. at this time.

#### **VI. Items for Discussion**

##### **A. Update on E-House Project**

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Jocelyn Anastasiou of United Illuminating, Rebecca Meyer of Connecticut Light and Power and Ray Mencio, CTHSS Technology Construction Trade Consultant, to the Board members. They presented to the Board an update on the E-House project.

Ms. Anastasiou provided a handout entitled, "E-Houses Serve as Energy Efficiency Learning Laboratories for CT Technical High School Students" to the Board members. The handout outlined the e-house initiative including a partnership with Project Learning Tree and the CBIA Education Foundation.

Ms. Meyer provided a handout entitled, "Forgoing the Fossils: E-Houses Serve as Energy Efficiency Learning Laboratories for the Technical High School Students" to the Board members. The document outlined the history, design, blueprint, ongoing training and professional development, future employment initiatives, and the overwhelming positive feedback the E-House project has received from CTHSS students, instructors, and Connecticut's clean energy community of vendors, manufacturers, energy funds and utility companies.

Mr. Mencio provided a handout entitled, "CTHSS LCEI-Tech updates" that outlined the system's yearly report on the E-House project which encompass year one, two and three.

Copies of the handouts are included in the official file of this meeting.

**B. Project Learning Tree**

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Daniel C. Esty, Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and Judy Resnick of the Connecticut Business Industry Association to the Board members.

Commissioner Esty and Ms. Resnick presented to the Board an update on the Connecticut Clean Trades Program (CCTP). The goal of the CCTP is to implement innovative work-based curriculum to prepare technical high school students for jobs in the energy efficiency sector. The CCTP will implement Project Learning Tree curriculum and investigations at five technical high schools (Norwich, Platt, Groton, Abbott and Grasso). Fifty students from each school will participate in the program. In year one of the program, students from each school will participate in two of four Project Learning Tree investigations (energy, water, environmental quality and waste and recycling). In year two of the program, students will participate in a service learning community outreach program that requires them to make connections with their local communities.

A copy of the Connecticut Clean Trades Program Project Summary was distributed to the Board members and is included in the official file of this meeting.

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

There was no report on the RFP.

**V. Items Requiring Action**

**D. Hiring Policy**

Mr. Barrasso moved, seconded, that the CTHSS Board approve the Connecticut Technical High School System Hiring Policy as recommended by the Committee on Quality and Policy.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the draft hiring policy is included in the official file of this meeting.

**E. Approval of the 2014 CTHSS Board Meeting Schedule**

Commissioner Palmer moved, Mr. Bundschu seconded, that the Board, pursuant to Section 1-225 of the Connecticut General Statutes and its Bylaws, approves the 2014 meeting schedule as follows:

- Tuesday, January 21, 2014
- Tuesday, February 18, 2014
- Tuesday, March 18, 2014
- Tuesday, April 15, 2014
- Tuesday, May 20, 2014
- Tuesday, June 17, 2014
- Tuesday, July 15, 2014
- Tuesday, August 19, 2014
- Tuesday, September 16, 2014
- Tuesday, October 21, 2014
- Tuesday, November 18, 2014
- Tuesday, December 16, 2014

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Trefry thanked the Board members for attending the graduations and noted they were very inspiring to attend.

**VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent**

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

Fiscal Update – The CTHSS continues to analyze projected costs for the next fiscal year and will work with schools for the remainder of the summer to discuss their educational, personnel and facility needs.

Weatherization Fall Evening Programs – The CTHSS is excited to continue in the fall, in Hartford, weatherization, masonry and manufacturing programs in conjunction with Workforce Partners.

Skills USA – At the recent Kansas City event, the CTHSS positioned itself at the top of national ratings. The CTHSS had 18 events in the top 10, and 16 in the top 20. According to national statistics, the students were already considered to be in the top 2% in the nation before entering the national event. Interim Superintendent Torres requested the students be recognized at a future Board meeting.

Graduation – As a system, the CTHSS graduated 2,450 students. A significant amount of scholarships were awarded to our students (approximately \$3.5 Million).

**IX. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

There was no committee report.

**B. Finance and Facilities**

There was no committee report.

**C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships**

Mr. Walker reported the committee met on July 16, 2013, and discussed how the CTHSS can expand the junior colleges' relationships with the CTHSS. Mr. Trefry added that the committee had a very productive meeting with Gail Coppage of the Board of Regents about the community colleges advanced manufacturing center's initiative. The committee members discussed creating a pathway towards stackable credentials in manufacturing, and supporting the CTHSS Adult Programs through a partnership with the community college financial aid offices.

**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 3:45 p.m.

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