

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

August 20, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on August 20, 2013, at the State Office Building, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

There was no quorum. The meeting began at 1:40 p.m.

Present: Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Catherine Smith
Joseph J. Vrabely Jr., Vice Chairperson

Absent: John Barrasso
Stephan Bundschu
Dr. Lillian Ortiz
Sharon Palmer
Matthew Nemerson
Fitz Walker

II. Public Participation

Richard Coleman, retired instructor from W. F. Kaynor Technical High School, advocated for naming the gymnasium at Kaynor Technical High School after a famous coach who passed away in March 2013.

III. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Due to no quorum; there was not a vote on the minutes.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Policy for Administration of Medications

Due to no quorum; there was not a vote on the Policy for Administration of Medications.

B. Tuberculosis Policy and Procedure

Due to no quorum; there was not a vote on the Tuberculosis Policy and Procedure.

VI. Items for Discussion

A. School Security Plan

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced John Woodmansee, Health and Safety Education Consultant, to the Board members. Mr. Woodmansee provided an update to the board regarding security and shared some of the security upgrades the CTHSS has made to the school buildings' infrastructure. He also outlined future plans for security upgrades. Mr. Woodmansee spoke to the board about the statewide school infrastructure council and other organizations he is a member of and/or involved in. Mr. Woodmansee updated the board on general statute requirements, specifically, Public Act No. 13-3, An Act Concerning Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety.

B. Fiscal Update

Interim Superintendent Torres reported the following fiscal update:

At approximately \$146M, sufficient funding exists to pursue the refill of critical vacancies in the schools (instructional, custodial) and the central office. The budget also includes thirteen (13) new positions to hire staff to begin the recruitment of students for J.M. Wright THS (which is scheduled to reopen in August 2014). Other highlights include, additional support for the schools for the purchase of maintenance supplies and repair services ranging from \$14,000 to \$35,000 each; funding for the acquisition of School Resource Officers (SRO) in three additional schools (Platt, Prince and Cheney); creation of a block grant of up to \$25,000 per school to address issues unique to their building or population; and restoring critical funding for environmental permitting that was cut last year due to budgetary rescissions.

The approved capital budget legislatively authorizes \$28M for various infrastructure repairs and provides funding for the replacement of student transportation vehicles and outdated technology hardware as well as provides funding for new trade and academic equipment. The district has already submitted documentation to the SDE for forwarding to OPM requesting consideration by the State Bond Commission of three agenda items at their next meeting. The requests include:

- \$3.5M for new manufacturing equipment to expand capacity district wide;
- \$2.65M for the replacement of technology; and
- \$2,080,000 for the purchase of 25 students transportation vehicles of which 22 must be retired per C.G.S. 10-97b (a).

Interim Superintendent Torres plans to discuss the fiscal policy and the fringe benefits at the next Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

C. Update on the RFP's – Superintendent Search and Strategic Planning

Emily Byrne provided an update to the Board members on the status of the Superintendent Search and the Strategic Planning Consultant.

Thomas P. Miller and Associates was the selected candidate to work with the board and the system on the strategic plan. Ms. Byrne provided the board members a copy of the Thomas P. Miller and

Associate's proposal along with a list of their staff and their credentials. Ms. Byrne reported that they received approval from OPM to go out to bid for a Superintendent search firm at a higher rate.

VII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry requested the Board members share their experiences at the CTHSS graduations ceremonies.

VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

First Day of School

The first day of school for teachers is Monday, August 26, 2013. On Wednesday, the system will welcome over 11,000 students.

New Teacher Orientation

The new teacher orientation was held August 19th and 20th and Dr. Torres is pleased with the talented pool of teachers who have joined our ranks. She wished them all a successful long standing career with the system.

Techno Camp 2013

Techno Camp allows middle school students the opportunity to experience selected technical offerings through a mini exploratory program. The CTHSSs enrolled 259 students at Cheney, Goodwin, Vinal and Prince. Students completed projects that were taken home at the end of their experiences in each of the technology offerings.

CAPT Highlights

This is a transition period for the state and district in terms of accountability and assessment. At the CTHSS, there are positive signs and the district continues to outperform local districts in math and science in spite of the shift to the CCSS and the staffing limitations experienced during the 2012-2013 school year. When looking at the achievement gap, there are positive increases in all areas to close the achievement gap.

A copy of the CTHSS CAPT Results 2007-2013 was distributed to the board members and a copy is included in the official file of this meeting.

Johns Hopkins University National Network of Partnerships

The CTHSS received a letter from Johns Hopkins University announcing that for the second year in a row the system has been selected as a system of excellence in the National Network of Partnership Schools. The focus of this organization is to develop and improve programs of family and community involvement.

Connecticut Department of Agriculture's Farm-to-Chef Week

The CTHSS will be participating again in the Farm to Chef Week, from September 15th -21st. This year's event will provide students with the opportunity to experience what it is like to work on a farm for a day. Students will work harvesting fruits and vegetables or help clearing the fields.

Barnes Group, Inc.

The CTHSS has been contacted by the Barnes Group, an international aerospace and industrial manufacturing and services provider. They will be visiting two of our schools this week. Dr. Torres indicated that she is very excited to partner with them and will keep the board updated on their visit.

Vocational Technical School in Haiti

The CTHSS has been contacted by an organization that is developing a vocational technical school in Haiti. They are interested in adopting our curriculum and visiting our school system. A fall visit is in the works.

Teacher Recognitions

Teachers from the CTHSS district will be invited to the next board meeting to be acknowledged and to have lunch with the board members.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney reported that the committee met on July 31, 2013, and approved the Policy for Administration of Medications and the Tuberculosis Policy and Procedure, for submission to the full Board. The Committee also discussed discipline data which Interim Superintendent Torres shared at the meeting as well as recommendations and commendations from this year' NEASC visits. Ms. Keavney added that despite insufficient funds the CTHSS, staff is doing a phenomenal job with less.

B. Finance and Facilities

There was no committee report.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

Mr. Vrabely reported that the Committee members spent more time today on articulation and the CTHSS strategic vision. He commended Dr. Torres and her staff for the foundation the plan provides moving forward.

X. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

XI. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

XII. Adjourn

The Board adjourned its meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Diane Curtis

Prepared by: _____

Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant