

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting

September 17, 2013

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereinafter "Board") met on September 17, 2013, at W. F. Kaynor Technical High School, 43 Tompkins Street Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

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

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

Absent: Catherine Smith

Mr. Trefry thanked Mr. David Telesca, Principal of W. F. Kaynor Technical High School, for hosting the Board meeting.

II. Public Participation

Jan Hochadel, SVFT President; Ronald McLellan, CEUI President; and Agnes Quinones, P3A President; spoke to the Board in advocacy of appointing Dr. Torres as the Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical High School System. They addressed the necessity to refill vacant positions and voiced their concerns about students in classrooms without certified teachers, newly renovated schools that are not healthy due to the lack of maintainers, schools opening without school resource officers, lack of security and central office positions remaining unfilled. A letter dated August 23, 2013, from the SVFT, AFSA, CEUI and P3A Presidents was distributed to the Board members and is included in the official file of this meeting.

Richard Kulmann, a retired instructor from W.F. Kaynor Technical High School thanked the Board in anticipation of its approval of naming the gymnasium at Kaynor Tech after a famous coach, Richard Ierardi, who passed away in March, 2013.

Mr. Trefry called for a motion to consider agenda item VI., Items for Discussion, at this time.

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Vrabely seconded, that the board consider agenda item VI., Items for Discussion, at this time.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Discussion

A. Henry Abbott THS New Principal Mr. Joseph Tripodi

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Joseph Tripodi, the new Principal of Henry Abbott Technical High School and shared with the Board members his credentials. Mr. Tripodi thanked the Board members for their support.

Teacher Recognitions

Interim Superintendent Torres and the Board recognized the following teachers throughout the district for their significant contributions to the success of their schools and students and their commitment to excellence in their profession.

Justin Williams, Culinary Arts	Henry Abbott Technical High School
Brent Davenport, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Bristol Technical Education Center
Roxanne Amiot, Automotive Technology	Bullard-Havens Technical High School
Ken Leggo, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning	Howell Cheney Technical High School
Kim Pascone, Special Education	H. H. Ellis Technical High School
Betsi Feldman, Student Achievement Intervention Lab	E. C. Goodwin Technical High School
Thomas Allen, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design	Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School
Kim Cerra, Hairdressing	W. F. Kaynor Technical High School
Julie Blass, English/Language Arts	Norwich Technical High School
Ignacio Vega, Automotive Technology	Emmett O'Brien Technical High School
Jane Arestia, School Counseling	Platt Technical High School
Patricia Mann, Information Systems Technology	A.I. Prince Technical High School
Jessica Ossen, Art	Vinal Technical High School
Jonathan Encarnacion, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design	Eli Whitney Technical High School
Jose Calle, Culinary Arts	H. C. Wilcox Technical High School
Joseph Wilk, English	Windham Technical High School
Royal Allard IV, Electronics Technology	Oliver Wolcott Technical High School

The teachers who were present at the meeting were presented a plaque and took a photo with the Board Chairperson, Mr. Trefry and Interim Superintendent Torres.

B. Grade K-12 Scholarship Program

Interim Superintendent Torres introduced Hank Weiner, Science/Biology Technology Consultant, and Aida Ghiaei, Program Director at the University of Connecticut. Ms. Ghiaei has been partnering with the CTHSS as the manager for the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded educational programs at the School of Engineering at UCONN. One grant Ms. Ghiaei manages, known as the GK-12 program, aims to provide teaching resources to classrooms of the CTHSS. This is achieved

by using the resources of graduate students (fellows) in engineering sciences at UCONN who are assigned to various schools throughout the state. They act as mentors and teaching liaisons to provide STEM training to the students and assist the instructors within the classroom. In addition, the First in Family Grant, connected to the GK-12 program, encourages our students to apply to the UCONN School of Engineering. Since 2012, eight of the Technical High Schools have teamed with a graduate fellow and 21 of our students have been accepted to the School of Engineering at the UCONN campus.

Ms. Ghiaei presented a PowerPoint to the Board members about the GK-12 Graduate STEM Fellows in K-12 Education program sponsored by the NSF.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

III. Executive Session

The Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent search. Present in Executive Session were Mr. Trefry, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Bundschu, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca, Mr. Nemerson, Dr. Ortiz, Commissioner Palmer, Mr. Vrabely and Mr. Walker.

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Mr. Barrasso, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Public Session at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Telesca, Principal of W.F. Kaynor Technical High School, introduced to the Board students Justin Cipriano and Mabelitza Guzman, who then shared their post-graduation plans.

Mr. Trefry called for a motion to consider agenda item X. Consent Agenda at this time.

Mr. Barrasso moved, Ms. Keavney seconded, that the board consider agenda item X., Consent Agenda, at this time.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

X. Consent Agenda

Ms. Keavney moved, Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the Board approve the following Consent Agenda Items: X.A., Policy for Administration of Medications; and X.B., Tuberculosis Policy and Procedure.

A. Policy for Administration of Medications

RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, as recommended by the Quality and Policy Subcommittee, approve the Policy for Administration of Medications in the Connecticut Technical High School System and directs the Interim Superintendent to take the necessary action.

B. Tuberculosis Policy and Procedure

RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board, as recommended by the Quality and Policy Subcommittee, approve the Connecticut Technical High School System's Policy for Tuberculosis Screening of Students

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Keavney, moved Mr. Barrasso seconded, that the board approve the minutes of the July 16, 2013, meeting.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Items Requiring Action

A. Dedication of the Kaynor THS Gymnasium

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that at the August 21, 2013 CTHSS Board Meeting, Mr. Richard Kulmann, a retired CTHSS instructor presented a proposal to name the Kaynor Tech Gymnasium after Mr. Richard Ierardi. Interim Superintendent noted that she supports this request and respectfully requested the approval of the CTHSS Board.

Mr. Barrasso moved, Ms. Keavney seconded, that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approve the dedication of the W. F. Kaynor Technical High School Gymnasium in Waterbury, CT in honor of Mr. Richard Ierardi.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Report of the Chair

Due to time constraints, Mr. Trefry offered his time to Interim Superintendent Torres so she could speak to the Strategic Plan and other matters.

VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent

Interim Superintendent Torres reported on the following:

The Draft Strategic Plan

The draft Strategic Plan (blueprint) for the CTHSS establishes the goals for the immediate future as the CTHSS Board conducts the long-range planning. This plan will need to be put into the context of the work on the strategic process. Thomas P. Miller and Associates, the strategic planning consultant will be contacting the Board the week of September 30, 2013, to meet with them. Three areas are pertinent to the blueprint. They are:

1. National and international benchmarks;
2. J.M. Wright Technical High School and a different instructional mode; and
3. Evaluating where we are.

The timeline for completion of the Strategic Plan is January 2014.

Mr. Trefry asked Interim Superintendent Torres to speak about the visit to E.C. Goodwin and Windham Technical High Schools with officials from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), to not only highlight strengths of the schools but to also address the infrastructure needs at those sites. Interim Superintendent Torres briefly mentioned that the district had prepared a report of staffing needs in the Technical High Schools. The Custodial Staffing Report will be shared at a future Finance and Facilities meeting. Mr. Trefry thanked OPM's representative Ms. Leah Grenier for attending today's meeting and for her agency's cooperation.

State Student Advisory Council on Education

Congratulations to Rizvan Mujic, an A.I. Prince Technical High School student, and Ellis Perez, a Bullard-Havens Technical High School student, on their appointments to the 2013-14 State Student Advisory Council on Education. The Council gives Connecticut students a voice in education planning and enables the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, State Department of Education personnel, the Governor and State Legislators to become familiar with high school students' perspectives on key issues. It is truly an honor for these students to have been selected to represent their peers at A.I. Prince and Bullard-Havens.

Student Congress Association of the Connecticut Technical High School System

The Student Congress Association of the Connecticut Technical High School System held its first meeting of the 2013-14 school year on September 10, 2013, at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford. State Representative Catherine Abercrombie, 83rd District, joined the meeting and expressed her support for the CTHSS and encouraged students to get involved in public service. The Student Congress is composed of a student representative from each of the CTHSS Student Councils. Jose Alves and Sara Bicking, of Henry Abbott Technical High School, were elected President and Vice President of the Student Congress. The last Student Congress President from Henry Abbott Tech was in 1978 and no one at Henry Abbott can ever recall both President and Vice President positions held by two Henry Abbott students simultaneously.

Farm-to-Chef Week Event

The Connecticut Technical High School System's nearly 300 culinary arts students from across the district's sixteen schools volunteered at local farms as part of the Farm-to-Chef week activities. During the week, farmers donated some of their crops, allowing culinary arts students from the CTHSS to showcase their learning. On September 12th, Interim Superintendent Torres joined Rose's Berry Farm in South Glastonbury.

Mathematics for English Language Learners (ELL)

Congratulations to Nancy Roberts, Mathematics Instructor at Cheney Technical High School, for her recent article entitled, "For ELLs: Vocabulary Beyond the Definitions," published in the August 2013 edition of *Mathematics Teacher*.

Education Legislative Update 2013

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. Interim Superintendent Torres reported that the CTHSS has developed and submitted a security plan to Homeland Security.

P.A. 13-122, Section 10, Responsibility for Fixing Tuition Fees

Interim Superintendent Torres thanked the board members for their advocacy to be able to change the responsibility to feeding fees to this board.

Chinese Educators Visit O'Brien Technical High School

On Friday, October 13, 2013, O'Brien Technical High School in Middletown hosted a delegation of educators from Guizhou, China. The delegation was greeted by Interim Superintendent Dr. Nivea Torres and O'Brien Tech Principal Laurie LeBouthillier. The guests were shown a short presentation about O'Brien Tech. After the presentation, members of the delegation had several questions about the CTHSS.

The guests were then taken on a tour of all of the technical programs at O'Brien Tech. A luncheon was held in their honor in the school's restaurant. The lunch was created and served by members of the O'Brien Tech's Culinary Arts program under the supervision of Chefs Pestka and Fusco.

2013 Race to the Top Grant Funds

Interim Superintendent Torres reported that the CTHSS is requesting funding in the amount of \$25 Million to fund the district's Blueprint for Transforming the CTHSS. The focus of the grant is to develop personalized learning for students through technology.

Mr. Trefry called for a motion to support the district's pending submission of an application for the 2013 Race to the Top Grant Funds.

Mr. Nemerson moved, Ms. Keavney seconded that the CTHSS Board support the district's pending submission of an application for the 2013 Race to the Top Grant Funds.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, Bundschu, Keavney-Maruca, Nemerson, Ortiz, Palmer, Trefry, Vrabely, Walker

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Smith

Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

Ms. Keavney reported that the committee met on Friday, September 13, 2013, and discussed social media, the strategic plan, and New England Association of Schools. The Committee also discussed automatic refill and reports required by statute which Interim Superintendent Torres was requested to prepare language revisions for.

B. Finance and Facilities

Mr. Barrasso reported that the committee met on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, and discussed the strategic plan, fiscal policy and the fringe benefit increase. Mr. Barrasso explained that the new recovery rates are significantly higher than those projected when the district submitted its proposed tuition and fee schedule for the year. This increase was going to fund the second position to assist with financial aid. As a result of these higher costs, we may not be able to do so.

C. Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

Mr. Vrabely reported that the committee met today, September 17, 2013 at 10:30 AM and discussed the strategic plan, J.M. Wright Technical High School, and the welding program at Grasso.

The committee discussed and provided input to the blueprint and strategic plan and the three pertinent areas to the blueprint which are national and international benchmarks, JM Wright THS and a different instructional model; and evaluating where we are. There was discussion on the Board of Regents and CTHSS students transitioning into the state community colleges that will increase the number of credentials they are able to receive during their 9-14 career. Several points were shared regarding the need for a stronger alignment between the CTHSS and higher education, beginning with manufacturing and eventually expanding to all trades.

XI. Public Participation

No one from the public addressed the Board.

XII. Adjourn

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

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