

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of Meeting - September 19, 2017

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on September 19, 2017 at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, 735 Slater Road, New Britain, CT

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Gina Chiarella
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mr. Peter Hoecklin
Commissioner Scott Jackson
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Mr. Chris DiPentima
Mr. Fitz Walker

II. Public Participation

III. Welcome

Mr. Trefry welcomed Board members and guests and thanked Principal Williams for her hospitality and Chef Rheiner for the wonderful meal he and his students prepared. Mr. Trefry announced there will be a brief meeting of the Superintendent search committee following today's meeting.

A. SkillsUSA Recognition

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced Ms. Heidi Griffen, Education Consultant to the Board members. Ms. Griffen provided an overview of the SkillsUSA competition results. Ms. Griffen introduced students who won medals at this year's SkillsUSA National Competition held this past summer. Interim Superintendent Wihbey and the Board recognized the students and parents who were present at the meeting. They were presented a plaque and took a photo with the Board Chairperson, Mr. Trefry, and Interim Superintendent Wihbey.

Five students earned a gold medal

1. Brett Hawran &
2. Kyle Shemanskis, From Prince, Place 1st in Audio-Radio Production,
3. Kevin Vasquez, From Norwich, Place 1st in Automotive Service Technology
4. Brian Cote, From Oliver Wolcott, Place 1st in Electrical Construction Wiring
5. Evan Amara, From Vinal, Place 1st in Technical Computer Applications

Two Students earned a Silver medal

1. Elijah Bailey, From Goodwin, Placed 2nd in Cosmetology
2. Matthew Novick, From Norwich, Placed 2nd in Plumbing

Two Students earned a bronze medal

1. Cole Christadore, From Ellis, Placed 3rd in Masonry
2. Spencer Hopwood, From Platt, Placed 3rd in Electronics

National Officer

Marangelis Lopez, From Wilcox was elected as a National Officer
The Board members congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

B. Teacher Recognition

Interim Superintendent Wihbey, SVFT President Ed Leavy 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:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Abbott Tech | Robert Hipp |
| Bristol TEC | Amy Howroyd |
| Bullard-Havens | Sara Rolleri |
| Cheney Tech | Adam Starvish |
| Ellis Tech | Brooke DiFormato |
| Goodwin Tech | Christina Stisser |
| Grasso Tech | Joy Supples |
| Kaynor Tech | Heather Cole |
| Norwich Tech | Katharine Kollias |
| O'Brien Tech | Kraig Swanson |
| Platt Tech | Emily Lozinak |
| Prince Tech | Dori Smith |
| Vinal Tech | Mike Hood |
| Whitney Tech | Inara Ramos |
| Wilcox Tech | Leslie Czerwinski |
| Windham Tech | Carrie Merfeld |
| Wolcott Tech | Amanda Kiszka-Curtis |
| Wright Tech | Meredith Homza |

Teachers who were present at the meeting were presented a plaque and took a photo with Commissioner Wentzell, Board Chairperson Trefry, Vice-Chairperson Keavney, and Interim Superintendent Wihbey. Special recognition was given to Ms. Meredith Homza, from J.M. Wright Technical High School who was selected as the Teacher of the Year for the District.

The Board members thanked the teachers for all of their hard work and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Consideration of Minutes

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the August 22, 2017 CTHSS Board meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Chiarella, Eichstaedt, Hoecklin, Jackson, Keavney, Smith, Trefry,
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: De Filippis, DiPentima, Walker

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Executive Session

The Board did not go into executive session.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VII. Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Updates

New Administrator

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced the new J.M. Wright Acting Principal, Dr. Phyllis Bartoli to the Board members. Interim Superintendent Wihbey shared Dr. Bartoli's background with the Board members and asked they join him in welcoming her on her new appointment.

Hiring Boom Seen in Southeastern Connecticut

Interim Superintendent Wihbey shared a news story about the CTHSS partnership with Grasso Tech and Electric Boat and other manufacturers expanding hiring over the next few years.

School and District Scoreboard

Interim Superintendent Wihbey reported that he reviewed the CTHSS School and District Scoreboard at the Quality and Subcommittee that met just prior to today's meeting. The committee members engaged in an extensive discussion about the scoreboards. This item will be discussed in more detail at the next CTHSS Board meeting.

Back to School Visits

Interim Superintendent Wihbey shared an update on his back-to-school visits. Commissioner Wentzell, Mr. Trefry, and the SVFT joined in some of the visits. Mr. Wihbey commented on how dedicated the staff and students are and shared how much pride and energy they put into their work.

Vinal Technical High School Construction Project Update

Interim Superintendent Wihbey has been informed by the Department of Construction Services that the Vinal THS construction project has been put on hold based on the school's current enrollment. Mr. Konstantinos Diamantis, Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review has offered to make a presentation at a future Subcommittee meeting on the school construction process.

Enrollment

Interim Superintendent Wihbey reported as of September 13, 2017, the CTHSS enrollment is up approximately 500 students over last year.

Interim Superintendent Wihbey thanked Commissioner Wentzell for her assistance. Commissioner Wentzell has dispatched some support staff from SDE to assist the CTHSS in areas of need. Mr. Wihbey introduced Mr. James Mindek IT Manager to the Board members. Mr. Mindek will be a great asset to the CTHSS. The CTHSS will also be receiving a fiscal manager and a nutrition support staff person as well.

Items for Discussion

A. Teacher Hiring Process

Discussion was tabled.

B. English Language Learners (ELL) Follow-up

At the September 19, 2017 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting, the Committee members engaged in a discussion on English Language Learners. Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultants Ms. Cynthia Mischel, Ms. Beatrice Tinty, and Dr. Laura Vega to the Board members who presented a PowerPoint on the actions the CTHSS has taken to increase the number of EL students who enroll in the CTHSS. The percentage of EL students enrolled in CTHSS as of 09/13/2017 was presented and compared with EL enrollment data at other magnet schools.

Since the August 22, 2017 Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy, a meeting was held with the Directors of Counseling, building administrators and EL Instructors to review the recruitment process and ensure that recruitment presentations include the supports available for EL students and students with learning needs. A brainstorming session followed and recommendations were made which are included in the PowerPoint presentation.

Questions/Discussion included: Commissioner Wentzell mentioned that the SDE has just purchased a live telephone interpretation service so staff can reach parents by telephone and have instantaneous translations. Commissioner Wentzell can arrange for priority training and suggested using the CTHSS as a pilot for training.

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

C. SPED Data

At the September 19, 2017 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting, the Committee members engaged in a discussion on Special Education Data.

Ms. Cynthia Mischel presented a PowerPoint presentation. The current enrollment data was shared related to Special Education Students including three year count per school. As of September 13, 2017, 9.8% of the student population is identified as Special Education. Currently, there is a wide variety of percentages in the district. Ms. Mischel explained ways the CTHSS can do a better job in recruiting special education students in those schools that have lower percentages. Ms. Mischel also shared enrollment data in the magnet schools and State of Connecticut for students with disabilities.

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

D. 2017 CSDE Legislation Implementation

Public Act 17-237 – An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Technical High School System as an Independent Agency

Mr. Trefry introduced Mr. Peter Haberlandt SDE Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs and Mr. Matthew Venhorst SDE Staff Attorney, to the Board members. Mr. Trefry asked Mr. Haberlandt and Mr. Venhorst to provide an overview of Public Act 17-237.

Among the highlights of the legislation:

- Changes the name of the district from the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) to the Technical Education and Career System (TECS); (CGS 10-95 Sec. 1(a))
- Clarifies the program offerings to include postsecondary education; (CGS 10-95 Sec. 1(b))
- For fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, the State Board of Education shall hire a consultant to assist the TECS Board with the development of a transition plan for the Technical Education and Career System and identify and provide recommendations concerning which services could be provided more efficiently through or in conjunction with another local or regional board of education, municipality or state agency by means of a memorandum of understanding with the Technical Education and Career System; Not later than January 1, 2019, the state board shall submit a report on the transition plan and such identified services and any recommendations to the joint standing committee of cognizance in the General Assembly;

Technical Education and Career System (TECS) Board

- Changes the role of the board from a governing body to advisory body; (CGS 10-95 Sec. 1(a))
- Empowers the board to enter into cooperative arrangements with local and regional boards of education, private occupational schools, institutions of higher education, job training agencies and employers in order to provide general education, vocational, technical, technological or postsecondary education or work experience; (CGS 10-95 Sec. 1 (c))
- Empowers the board to accept gifts, grants and donations on behalf of the system; (CGS 10-95 Sec. 1 (f))

District Administration

- On or after July 1, 2017, until June 30, 2020, the CTEC Board may recommend a candidate for the superintendent of the CTEC to the Commission of Education. The term of office for the superintendent hired under this subdivision is June 30, 2020.
- Effective July 1, 2019, the Technical Education and Career System shall be under the direction of the Executive Director of the Technical Education and Career System;
- On or after July 1, 2020, the CTEC Board may recommend a candidate for the superintendent of the CTEC to the Executive Director of the CTEC. The term of office of the superintendent under this subdivision shall be three years and may be extended for no more than three years at any one time;

Budgeting Process

- The budget for the CTEC system will continue to be a separate budgeted agency from the Department of Education but requires the creation of a separate account for educational and school-based accounts and expenditures and a separate account for non-educational expenditure effective as of July 1, 2017; (CGS 10-99F)
- For fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, and each year thereafter, requires the Superintendent to submit an annual statement of staffing needs (CGS 10-99) to the Office of Policy and Management;
- For fiscal ending June 30, 2020 and each year thereafter, the superintendent of the TEC System will prepare and submit the education budget to the Executive Director of the TEC system. The budget submitted by the superintendent shall include the budgetary needs of each school and a statement of the school staffing needs;
- For fiscal ending June 30, 2020 and each year thereafter, the Executive Director will prepare a central office budget and central office staffing needs statement.
- For fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and each year thereafter, the Executive Director will prepare a cumulative TEC System Budget (including the school-based budgets and the central office budget) and CTEC staffing needs statement for submission to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM);

Other Deliverables - CTEC

- Requires the creation and maintenance of an inventory of all technical and vocational equipment, supplies and materials purchased or obtained and used in each school;

- Requires the superintendent of the Technical Education and Career System to consult with each regional community-technical college and local or regional boards of education for a town in which a technical education and career school is located and which provides any career technical education programs for the purpose of establishing partnerships, reducing redundancies and consolidating programmatic offerings;

Other Deliverables – State Department of Education

- Requires the Department of Education to conduct a review of the admissions policy of the Technical Education and Career System as it relates to enrollment of students with disabilities. BY January 15, 2018, the department shall submit any recommendations regarding modifications to the admission policy to the superintendent, the TEC Board and the joint standing committees of cognizance in the General Assembly;
- Requires the Department of Education to conduct an evaluation of any existing standards relating to career technical education used by the Technical Education and Career System to ensure alignment with professional certification requirements and uniformity across the system. Not later than October 1, 2018, the department shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committees of cognizance in the General Assembly;

Mr. Trefry thanked Mr. Haberlandt and Mr. Venhorst for taking the time to speak to the board and would appreciate any notes he could circulate.

E. Enrollment Report

Ms. Mischel provided an update on the overall CTHSS enrollment by school and by demographics as of September 13, 2017. The enrollment has increased. The number of applicants decreased due to the hardship of having to take the assessment test.

The Board members congratulated the CTHSS staff and the District on the enrollment. Mr. Wihbey applauded the guidance counselors and school administrators as well.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. DiPentima has officially resigned for the Board. Mr. Trefry announced that a replacement member has been identified and will be recommended for appointment to the state board of education at their next meeting.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on September 19, 2017 just prior to today’s CTHSS Board meeting. The committee had a discussion on the Teacher Hiring Process, ELL Follow-up, SPED Data and the school and district Scoreboard.

B. Outreach and Finance

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on September 19, 2017 just prior to today’s CTHSS Board meeting. The Committee did not have a quorum. The committee received an update on the CTHSS expenditure and revenue reports. Ms. Gloria McCree, Director of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) for the CT State Department of Education gave the committee members some background information about her reporting structure with the SBE and SDE. She also provided advice on how to manage appropriate segregation of duties during a time where fiscal and support staffing levels are shrinking. The Committee members also received a follow-up on the Aviation Maintenance Programs tuition and discussed the efforts to reinstate the ability for students to receive Pell Grants and also had a discussion on Outreach Efforts.

X. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XI. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:00 PM

Diane Curtis

Prepared by:

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Connecticut Technical High School System