

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Meeting January 19, 2016

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on January 19, 2016 at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, 189 Fort Hill Road West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, 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. Karen Eichstaedt
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Mr. John Barrasso
Mr. Chris DiPentima
Acting Commissioner Dennis C. Murphy
Mr. Fitz Walker

Mr. Trefry thanked Ms. Feeney, Principal of Ella T. Grasso Technical High School for hosting the Board Meeting. Principal Feeney thanked the Board members for their support. Ms. Feeney invited Kevin Mizak, Mathematics Related Ed Department Head and two students-- Lawrence Ravel, a tenth grade Culinary Arts major and Liz Francillon, a tenth grade Hospitality major who spoke to the Board members on the progress and success of the Mastery Based Learning Implementation at Grasso THS. Mr. Trefry congratulated the staff on their success.

Principal Feeney also introduced Max Veiga, 12th Grade Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology student and Patience Hamilton 12th Grade Culinary Art's student who shared their trade majors at Grasso Tech and their post-secondary plans with the Board.

II. Public Participation

1. Marian Galbraith, Mayor of the City of Groton spoke to commend Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
2. Harry Watson, Volunteer, Groton Town Council spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
3. Cathy Osten, Connecticut State Senator spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
4. Leah Simmons, Grasso THS was not present when called to speak.

5. Gene Chaude, Grasso THSs Carpentry instructor spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation. Mr. Chaude also shared with the Board members a portfolio of projects. A copy of this portfolio is included in the official file of this meeting.
6. David Preka, a local business owner in Mystic and Board member of the builder's association spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
7. Karl Bagwell, a 1980 graduate of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and owner of Yankee Remodeler spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
8. Steven Reynolds, a customer of Grasso THS who had a home built by Grasso THSs Carpentry Program spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
9. Anna Lonergan, a Grasso THS parent of a carpentry major, spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
10. Eric Sabo, Grasso THSs Plumbing Department Head spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

IV. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

There was no vote on the minutes due to no quorum.

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

School Closings

Superintendent Torres reported the CTHSS has had no snow days yet this year and from a fiscal perspective this is always helpful. Superintendent Torres reported one school closure due to a boiler repair at Ella T. Grasso.

Ella T. Grasso Technical High School Renovation Project

The career pathways for the new Ella T. Grasso Technical High School were discussed at both the January 19, 2016 Outreach and Finance Subcommittee meeting and the December 11, 2015 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Superintendent Torres reassured everyone who came out to speak today on behalf of the project that Principal Feeny is available to meet with staff and local leaders to address any concerns they may have about the plans for the new Ella T. Grasso THS. In addition, Superintendent Torres noted that the plan supported strategic plan goals and the Board's charge to the district. The Board has challenged the CTHSS to look at the district as regions not necessarily as a distinct school. Residential carpentry will be addressed by the three CTHSS sister schools in the area.

The CTHSS Board has endorsed the plan and commended the district staff for addressing workforce regional needs. The CTHSS has met extensively with Electric Boat and local and business industry partners and the new plan for the school supports this.

Grasso THS will not receive a renovated facility rather a full scale school. Superintendent Torres shared that she will work very closely with local Superintendents to ensure Grasso THS has a healthy enrollment for the new school. The project is estimated to be complete within three to four years. Superintendent Torres will continue to keep the Board members updated.

CT Association of Public School Superintendent's (CAPSS) Meeting and Partnership Luncheon at E.C. Goodwin THS

On Friday, January 15, 2016, the Superintendent met with representatives from the CT Association of Public Schools Superintendents to address some of their concerns regarding admissions to our Technical High Schools. Superintendent Torres has agreed to continue these partnership conversations. She believes they are very helpful in alleviating misconceptions around the state about what actions the CTHSS has taken to address these admissions concerns. First, the action of working with the Office of Civil Rights (OCR)—a voluntary compliance review since May, 2015. Superintendent Torres shared that a lot of her colleagues across the state were not aware of this and were very reassured by the actions the CTHSS has taken. CAPSS was also happy to hear that the CTHSS Special education average is 10.3. The state's average is approximately 12-13—another misconception about the numbers. Superintendent Torres also shared that following the meeting there was a partnership luncheon with local Superintendents and a tour of E.C. Goodwin THS. Superintendent Torres plans to continue to host additional partnership meetings at the Technical High Schools throughout the remainder of the year to showcase what a technical high school really looks like.

Visit from the Association for Career and Technical Education's Regional Director Mike Woods

Goal Number 3.1 of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan is to position the CTHSS as a leading force in career technical education by partnering with career networks and national organizations that promote a vision for the United States as a global competitor.

On Thursday, January 21, 2016, the Regional Director of the Association for Career and Technical Education Mr. Mike Woods will be speaking to the CTHSS staff at A.I. Prince Technical High School about the district's career technology offerings. The CTHSS is looking to explore more partnerships with him and other districts across the nation that support career and technical education.

February National Career and Technical Education Month

February is national career and technical education month and the CTHSS will be celebrating at each of the Technical High Schools by hosting job fairs, school tours and meeting with industry partners. The Board members will be receiving more information about this.

Susan Kelly, Abbott THS Physics Teacher to Represent U.S. European Geophysical Union Workshop in Vienna Austria in April, 2016

Susan Kelly, a Henry Abbot THS Physics Teacher will represent the United States at a European Geophysical Union workshop in Vienna, Austria in April, 2016. The workshop will focus on educators and scientists from around the world presenting astronomy research and K-12 education efforts. Congratulations to Ms. Kelly for not only representing our district but for representing the Nation.

US Senator Chris Murphy's Monday Manufacturer Press Release

Monday, January 18, 2016, Senator Murphy applauded the CTHSS Precision Machining Program for their outstanding efforts to prepare CT students to meet the demands of our state's 21st Century advanced manufacturing industry. A copy of this press release will be forwarded to CTHSS Board members.

Budget Update

Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Chasse, Education Consultant who shared with the Board members the district's operating budget for fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17. On December 8, 2015, the Governor convened a special session (SS2) of the State Legislature to consider Senate Bill 1601 – An Act Making Certain Structural Changes to the State Budget and Adjustments to the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2017. Successful passage of the bill led to creation of December Special Session, Public Act 15-1. As detailed in the legislation, the Connecticut Technical High School System's (CTHSS) budget is being reduced by \$1,350,000 MM in each year of the biennium. The CTHSS has been able to meet this obligation through savings from unfilled positions. The CTHSS continues to submit requests for bond funds. Four requests may be considered at the January 29, 2016 Bond Commission Meeting which are as follows: School transportation vehicles at J.M. Wright THS, infrastructure repairs funding across the district, funding for the after school extended hours programs, and funding for more trade and academic equipment. Superintendent Torres reported that we presently have 73 positions the CTHSS continues to pursue and are working very closely with SDE colleagues to expedite the refill of these positions. All instructor and school nurse positions are a priority and are part of the first wave to be refilled. Superintendent Torres will continue to keep the Board members updated on a monthly basis.

Ms. Keavney-Maruca requested to go on record on how disappointed she is that the CTHSS has had to have 41 vacancies filled by substitute teachers since the start of the school year. Ms. Keavney is also very concerned about the school nurse vacancies. Commissioner Wentzell assured the Board members that both she and Superintendent Torres have done everything in their power to advocate for the refill of all the positions. Commissioner Wentzell thanked Superintendent Torres for all of her hard work.

A copy of the financial report is included in the official file of this meeting.

VII. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Sustainability Technical Education Program (STEP)

Goal Number Three of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan (Flexibility, Responsiveness and Innovation) is to transform the CTHSS with innovative program designs that are responsive to Connecticut's workforce needs, thus positioning the system as a leading force in career technical education. The Framework for Success item 3.5 is to prepare students for emerging employment opportunities in "green careers".

Superintendent Torres invited CTHSS Education Consultants Mr. Raymond Mencio and Mr. Pasquale Ciarleglio to provide an update to the Board on a new four year program entitled Sustainability Technical Education Program (STEP) to be launched in nine Technical High Schools in January, 2016. This program is in conjunction with the CT Business and Industry Association's (CBIA) Project Learning Tree and Energize CT. Energize CT is funding the Program and will be managed by CBIA's Program Manager Ms. Jennifer Duggan. Workshops were conducted at the November 3, 2016 CTHSS Districtwide Professional Development Day to learn about the collaborative program that will prepare students for jobs in the green industry.

Superintendent Torres also invited to today's Board meeting, Connecticut Business and Industries (CBIA) Executive Director Ms. Andrea Comer, CBIA's Program Manager, Ms. Jennifer Duggan, United Illuminating's Program Manager Ms. Lisa Sarubbi, and Eversource Energy's Program Administrator and Evaluator Ms. Diana McCarthy-Bercury. Ms. Sarubbi and Ms. McCarthy-Bercury presented on the CTHS Green STEP program. They shared the background on the 2012-14 CT Clean Trade Pilot at five Technical High Schools (Goodwin, Platt, Abbott, Groton and Norwich) including the successes and challenges of the program. Also presented was the realignment of the CT

Clean Trade Pilot Program goals, program design—including the four year program model, benefits, partnerships, certifications and career paths of the new STEP Program at Abbott, Cheney, Goodwin, Norwich, Platt, Prince, Vinal, Wilcox and Wright Technical High Schools.

The Board members were provided a handout of the program. A copy of this handout entitled “CT Sustainability Tech Program 2016-2018 is included in the official file of this meeting.

The Board members expressed their appreciation and admiration to everyone for their hard work with this STEP program.

B. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

Goal Number one of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan (Enhanced Employer Engagement and Alignment with Industry Needs) is to partner with business and industry to develop career technical education programs that provide CTHSS students with the skills and work habits to be successful in a dynamic 21st Century work environment. The Framework for Success 1.5 is to stay current with the emerging technology and STEM demands of college and work environments.

On November 4, 2015 the State Board of Education adopted the Next Generation Science Standards—a next step for Connecticut Science Education. The Next Generation Science Standards is a set of learner outcomes designed to engage ALL students in “practicing” Science the way real scientists do, and applying their knowledge to explain things in the real world.

Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Hank Weiner, CTHSS Education Consultant, Mr. Eric Sawyer, Vinal THS Related Education Department Head and Barbara Marroquin Kaynor THS Related Department Head, to the Board members. Mr. Weiner presented an overview of the Next Generation Science Standards and how the standards will impact teaching and learning within the CTHSS. Mr. Weiner shared the State Department of Education’s draft five year NGSS implementation timeline with the Board members and the explanation of the professional development opportunities available to the teachers now and in the future. Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Marroquin shared specific details about the professional development. Mr. Weiner thanked Ms. Terry Pearce, Platt THS Science Instructor who was very influential in creating the professional development for the instructors in the district. Ms. Pearce was not able to attend today’s meeting.

Superintendent Torres shared that this is the first of many conversations the CTHSS will have with Board members around the NGSS.

The Board members congratulated the staff on their presentation. Commissioner Wentzell expressed how proud she is that the CTHSS is in the lead with the NGSS. Commissioner Wentzell also feels the CTHSS will be the beneficiaries as they begin to receive students who for the very first time in elementary school are experiencing this type of Science learning and in particular the Science strands.

A copy of the Next Generation Science Standards presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry announced that Ms. Keavney-Maruca has agreed to join the Outreach and Finance Committee. Mr. Trefry also reported there will be another Board member added to the CTHSS Board hopefully before the next meeting.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on December 11, 2015. The Committee members were briefed on the career pathways at the new Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton, CT. The Committee also met on January

8, 2016 and discussed the trade reauthorization for the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Cluster, Health Science Cluster and the Human Services Cluster. The report will be resubmitted to the Quality and Policy committee for further discussion at their February 5, 2016 meeting.

B. Outreach and Finance

The Outreach and Finance Committee met on December 15, 2015 directly before the CTHSS Board meeting. The Committee members were briefed on the career pathways at the new Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton, CT.

Commissioner Smith said a few words on the Economic Development in the State of CT. Mr. Trefry thanked Commissioner Smith for being such a wonderful partner on the Board.

XI. Public Participation

1. Amber Stolz, a Grasso THS teacher, spoke on behalf of several teachers who wanted to be a part of today's meeting to show their support for keeping the Carpentry Program open.
2. Raymond Stawski, a Grasso THS Carpentry Department Head, spoke in support of Grasso THSs Carpentry Program and to advocate for its continuation.
3. Natalie Clegg, HR Manager for the Mystic Marriott and Spa, spoke in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
4. Michael White, a retired Grasso THS Hospitality Management teacher, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
5. Mechele Shiner-McCracken, Director of Banquets for the Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
6. Kevin Booker, a Professor from Eastern Connecticut State University, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
7. Susan Corrice, Executive Director for Riverfront Children's Center, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
8. Tracey Stadnicki, Employment Specialist for Mohegan Sun, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
9. Denise Braley, Associate Professor at Mitchell College, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
10. Lisa Kasprzak, Associate Director of the Hilton Mystic Hotel, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
11. Tricia Cunningham, Director of Development and Community Relations for Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.

12. Chris Abel from the New England Institute of Technology, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
13. Marge Coupe, Admissions Representative for Johnson and Whales University, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
14. Chris Jones, Grasso THSs Hospitality and Guest Services Management Program Department Head, spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
15. Al Martins, a manager from The Men’s Warehouse spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.
16. Jean-Claude Ambroise, Vocational Instructor for the York Correctional Institution spoke to the Board members in advocacy of keeping the Culinary Arts and Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management Programs as separate programs.

In closing, Mr. Trefry thanked everyone who came out today to speak to the Board members and appreciated their input.

XII. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 4:15 PM.



Prepared by:

Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System