

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Draft Minutes of Meeting
October 20, 2015**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on October 20, 2015, at A.I. Prince Technical High School, 401 Flatbush Avenue, Hartford, CT.

I. Call to Order

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

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mr. John Barrasso
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Commissioner Sharon Palmer
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Mr. Chris DiPentima
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Mr. Trefry thanked Sheila Williams, Principal of A.I. Prince Technical High School for hosting the Board Meeting. Principal Williams thanked the Board members for their support. Ms. Williams introduced Brianna Diaz Manufacturing major and Robert Kennedy Electrical major who shared their experience at A. I. Prince and their post-secondary plans with the board. Ms. Diaz and Mr. Kennedy also shared their experience with the construction of the E-House.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

IV. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

V. Consideration of Minutes

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Palmer, Trefry, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: DiPentima, Smith

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

Mr. Barrasso moved, Ms. Eichstaedt seconded, that the board consider agenda item VIII. Items for Discussion, at this time.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Palmer, Trefry, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: DiPentima, Smith

Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Items for Discussion

A. Manufacturing Month Presentations – Panel Discussion Women in Manufacturing

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 skills and work habits to be successful in a dynamic 21st century work environment.

Superintendent Torres opened the meeting by reminding Board members that October is manufacturing month and in honor of manufacturing month the CTHSS felt it would be appropriate to engage with the Board on a conversation around manufacturing. A distinguished group of panelists were invited to join the Board meeting today.

Superintendent Torres introduced CTHSS Education Consultant Mr. John Murphy to the Board members. Mr. Murphy introduced the guests and monitored a panel discussion on women in manufacturing.

The discussion opened with Mr. Jim Clarke, Automated Manufacturing Technology (AMT) Program Department Head who provided an overview of the AMT program at A.I. Prince and why it is unique in comparison to other manufacturing programs in the district.

Mr. Clarke introduced two current A.I. Prince Students, Amy Watson and Odalyis Rosario to the Board members who explained what attracted them to Prince Tech's AMT Program.

Miss Patty Chonco, a 2015 graduate and current student at Asnuntuck Community College, could not attend today's meeting. In lieu of her attendance, she prepared a statement to the Board members that explained how she was prepared for career and college.

Ms. Millichell Ramirez, of Carey Manufacturing, discussed how the skills and knowledge acquired in the AMT program prepared her for success in her current position at Carey Manufacturing. Ms. Ramirez attends Asnuntuck Community College and plans to attend CCSU in the spring

Finally, Jesus Montalvo a Prince Tech graduate addressed the Board members as to what attracted him to the AMT Program. Mr. Montalvo shared with the Board members how he started his own business while in the tenth grade. He is currently an employee of Prine Manufacturing, attends UCONN part time, and owns his own business that designs and manufacturers parts for the racing industry.

The Board members were extremely impressed on how confident and articulate the students are.

The panel responded to questions from the Board members as to how Prince Tech prepared them for their future.

VI. Report of the Superintendent of Schools

Superintendent Torres provided a handout to the Board members on statewide partnerships and outreach efforts for September and October 2015 and School and Teacher Celebrations for the months of September and October 2015. Superintendent Torres highlighted the following items from her report/handout:

- Bullard-Havens THS, Bridgeport Ribbon Cutting-Manufacturing Month,
- The christening of the Illinois (SSN786) with First Lady, Michelle Obama at Electric Boat, Groton,

- Presentation at the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) Annual Mtg. - *Growing Manufacturing Employment Through Education*,
- Meeting with President De Filippis and her staff to discuss collaboration between CTHSS Faculty and NVCC Faculty and
- Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Eli Whitney THS, Hamden – Welcome to Puerto Rican Author, Carmen T. Bernier-Grand.
- Superintendent Torres distributed a pamphlet to the Board members on the literacy initiative and announced that the CTHSS will be developing one for the English Language Learners (ELL) Program. Superintendent Torres shared how proud she is of these initiatives.
- Superintendent Torres also announced the sixth annual student art show will be held from November 9 through December 15 at the Bushnell Performing Arts Center, Promenade Gallery. Information is forthcoming.

VII. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action.

IX. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry reported we should have additional board members on board soon. Mr. Trefry received the letter of resignation from Mr. Nemerson.

X. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on October 9, 2015.

Ms. Keavney reviewed with the Board members the Summary of Education-Related legislation enacted in the 2015 Regular and Special Sessions of the CT General Assembly which was included in their packet. Ms. Tinty reviewed with the Board members the public acts highlighted in yellow that were applicable and of interest to the CTHSS. Of special note, governing authority now comes to our CTHSS Board.

At the October 9, 2015 Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting, the committee members also reviewed the 2014-15 SY Discipline Data. Ms. Keavney also reviewed with the Board members the 2014-15 SY Discipline Data which was included in their packet.

A copy of the Summary of Education-Related legislation Enacted in the 2015 Regular and Special Sessions of the CT General Assembly and the 2014-15 SY Discipline Data is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Outreach and Finance

The Outreach and Finance Committee met on October 20, 2015 directly before the CTHSS Board meeting.

Mr. Barrasso reported that the Committee members received a presentation on Work Based Learning from Windham Technical High School's Principal Mr. Ambruso, and CTHSS Education Consultant Ms. Heidi Griffen.

The Committee members reviewed the following reports to be submitted to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly: Report on Student Transportation Vehicles, Report on School Expenditures by School, and CTHSS Report of School Budgets.

Mr. Barrasso provided a copy of the Report of School Budgets to the Board members. Chasse reported the schools have been directly allocated approximately \$7.1M to date. The district is retaining funding to meet projected payroll (\$140.2M) and fuel and utility (\$9.3M) obligations on behalf of the schools and to operate the district's central office. Approximately \$10M is being retained in the central office to meet district wide obligations such as special education brokered services, professional development, marketing and public relations, textbooks, bus inspections/repairs, and building inspection and code compliance repairs. Mr. Chasse also provided the cost per student per school and explained the reason for the variance. Schools are also able to access this funding for instructional equipment repairs, toner, and block grants for school-based projects. The posting of the school budgets to the individual school websites as required by C.G.S. 10-99g (c) is pending at time of publication.

XI. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XII. Adjourn

The CTHSS Board adjourned its meeting at 2:50.

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*
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Connecticut Technical High School System