

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – January 16, 2018

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on January 16, 2018 at Ella T. Grasso Technical High School, Groton, CT.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Trefry called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson
Ms. Andrea Comer
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt
Mr. Peter Hoecklin

Absent: Ms. Gina Chiarella
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis
Commissioner Scott Jackson
Commissioner Catherine Smith
Mr. Fitz Walker

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Welcome

See item VII. Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Consideration of Minutes

There was no vote on the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting due to no Quorum

V. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

VI. Items Requiring Action

There were no items requiring action

VII. Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools

Items for Discussion

A. Workforce Needs General Dynamics Electric Boat (EB)

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced Ms. Maura Dunn, Vice President of HR and Administration, General Dynamics, Electric Boat to the Board members. Accompanying Ms. Dunn was Courtney Murphy, Manager of Trade Training. Ms. Dunn thanked the Board members for the opportunity to speak to the Board members and how EB has long wanted a stronger and deeper partnership with the CTECS.

Ms. Dunn made a presentation regarding her company's workforce development needs for highly qualified workers (60,000 or more) across various disciplines including manufacturing, welding and plumbing to fill defense industry jobs to answer the nation's call to defend our country.

Ms. Dunn broke down three areas EB accomplishes for the nation's submarine community. 1) Design and Engineer submarines using graduates from Ella T. Grasso Tech and other CT schools in the drafting process of the next generation submarines; 2) Build submarines; and 3) overhaul and repair submarines.

Ms. Dunn spoke about the increase in pipeline hires from CT over the past two years. She also reviewed the Rhode Island value chain and models, partnering institutions creating interest in Rhode Island. Ms. Dunn reviewed a slide with the Board members that Yale University developed on how CT can improve its competitive position and its economy. One of the things Yale urged was for CT to replicate the model in Rhode Island for CT. Ms. Dunn explained that although we are already working with the Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board, we should be doing more of it. Ms. Dunn spoke about CT Early College Opportunity (CT ECO) program, curriculum development, hands on learning, and apprenticeship programs. Ms. Dunn emphasized how EB would love the opportunity to broaden what they have achieved at Grasso and expand it.

Questions/Discussion included: Ms. Comer spoke about how the CTECS are doing something similar with The Green Step Program in CT, employing students into the green energy utilities field and there seems like there tremendous alignment with what EB is doing in Rhode Island. She stated that the Green Step would be a great opportunity. Interim Superintendent would like to follow up with Ms. Dunn about the CT ECO program. Ms. Dunn agreed that this program would provide a successful framework to try and build from. Also discussed was continuing education EB provides for their employees.

Board members thanked Ms. Dunn for her presentation and shared how much they have been looking forward to meeting her and developing a partnership. CTECS looks forward to working with EB on this important partnership and Interim Superintendent Wihbey will reach out to continue discussions.

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

Hosting of Today's Meeting

Interim Superintendent Wihbey thanked Principal Patricia Feeney for hosting today's meeting and for the tour of Welding and Bioscience and Environmental Trade Technology Shop. The Board members were impressed with their presentation and thanked the instructors and students for sharing their work. Ms. Feeney welcomed the Board members and spoke about the school construction project and enrollment.

Ms. Feeney introduced the following twelfth grade students: Elizabeth Brown – Mechanical Design and Engineering Technology; and Lawrence Ravel – Culinary Arts to the Board members who spoke about their experience at Vinal Tech and their post-secondary plans.

Monthly CTECS Literature Review

Interim Superintendent Wihbey reviewed the following articles that were included in the Board members packets:

Two Articles from the Harvard Business Review;

1. Help your team manage stress, anxiety, and burnout
2. How to overcome burnout and stay motivated

Article – NJ Spotlight – Teaming teachers, school staff and parents to fight chronic absenteeism;

Article – Reaching for the Start – CNC machining skills students at Platt Tech program toolpaths in Mastercam to help NASA;

Article – The Principal’s Desk, 5 Pieces of Data your Leadership Team Should be analyzing; and

December 22, 2017 and January 6 – Newsletter/Update to the CTECS Board.

Full-Time General Fund Certified Vacancies by School by Discipline

This topic was discussed in length at the Outreach and Finance Subcommittee meeting that met just prior to today’s meeting. Interim Superintendent Wihbey reported that the CTECS is looking at approximately 79 certified vacancies that will be difficult to re-fill due to budget holdbacks.

VIII. Report of the Chair

Mr. Trefry requested his time be used to continue the conversation around the Electric Boat presentation. Board members shared their thoughts on ways to serve their needs. Ms. Comer feels it very important to look at the regional CT ECO system.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Quality and Policy

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on January 16, 2018 just prior to today’s CTECS Board meeting. The Committee received an update from Ms. Bankuty, Mr. Pitsas and Dr. Risolo on Student Assessment Testing. They also received an update from Ms. Daria, Ms. Clemont and Dr. Moran on the progress of the work of the Chronic Absenteeism committee. Dr. St. Onge spoke to the Committee about the profile of a graduate and Principal Moran and Ms. Zimmerman presented an Alternative Expulsion Pilot idea to the Committee which the Committee members endorsed.

B. Outreach and Finance

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on January 16, 2018 just prior to today’s CTECS Board meeting. The Committee received an update on the Expenditure and Revenue Reports, and the CTECS report of School Budgets. They were also provided an update on the capital budget and pending bond requests. The Committee members requested an impact statement be prepared for distribution to OPM with regards to the district budget and numerous unfilled positions. The impact statement will be

distributed to Board members for their consideration and to co-sign on that statement if they wish to. The topic of Full-Time General Fund Certified Vacancies by School and by Discipline was also discussed in-depth and the hard-ships caused by not re-filling these vacancies. Interim Superintendent Wihbey expressed concern about providing quality services to the CTECS with so many vacancies and agreed that the preparation of the impact statement will be very powerful work for the CTECS.

X. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

XI. Adjourn

The CTECS Board adjourned its meeting at 2:45 PM

Prepared by:

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