

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD

## Minutes of Meeting – November 14, 2017

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on November 14, 2017 at Bullard Havens Technical High School, 500 Palisade Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

### I. Call to Order

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

### II. Oath of Office

Mr. Trefry welcomed Ms. Andrea Comer, a new Board member of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board and thanked her for her willingness to serve. Attorney Beatrice Tinty administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Andrea Comer at the Subcommittee meeting on Outreach and Finance that met just prior to today’s meeting.

Ms. Comer shared a few words about herself. Ms. Comer is the Vice President of Workforce Strategies, Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), Education and Workforce Partnership. Each board member introduced themselves to Ms. Comer.

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

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson  
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Vice Chairperson  
Ms. Andrea Comer  
Ms. Gina Chiarella  
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis  
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt  
Commissioner Scott Jackson  
Commissioner Catherine Smith  
Mr. Fitz Walker

Absent: Mr. Peter Hoecklin

### III. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

### IV. Welcome

Chairman Trefry thanked Principal Cavallaro for hosting today’s meeting and for the tour of the Sustainable Architecture Trade Technology Shop. The Board members were very impressed with their presentation and thanked the instructors and students for sharing their work.

Mr. Cavallaro welcomed the Board members and guests. Dr. Kenneth Hilliard Assistant Principal introduced the following students: Tiffany Hines (12<sup>th</sup> grade, Sustainable Architecture) and Prince Dailey

(12<sup>th</sup> grade, Culinary Arts) who shared their experience at Bullard-Havens and their post-secondary plans.

The Board members thanked Mr. Cavallaro and Dr. Hilliard for their hospitality today.

**V. Consent Agenda**

**A. Consideration of Minutes**

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the October 17, 2017 CTECS Board meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Executive Session**

The Board did not go into executive session.

**VII. Items Requiring Action**

There were no items requiring action.

**VIII. Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools**

**Items for Discussion**

**A. DAS School Construction Update Vinal Technical High School**

At the September 17, 2017 CTECS Board meeting, the board members were updated on the delay of the commencement of the renovation/new construction project at Vinal Technical High School.

Interim Superintendent Wihbey invited Mr. Konstantinos Diamantis, Director of the Office of School Construction Grants and Review, Department of Administrative Services to the Board members and thanked him for taking time to meet with the Board. Mr. Diamantis shared some background information about his department. Mr. Diamantis introduced, Mr. Robert Clemer, plan reviewer who he asked to join him today.

Mr. Diamantis provided the Board members an update on the Vinal Technical High School construction project. Mr. Diamantis voiced concern as to whether or not the State of Connecticut can afford to renovate/build a new Vinal Technical High School given its latest enrollment and program offerings.

The next board meeting will be held at Vinal Tech so that the Board can see first-hand the issues with the facilities. Interim Superintendent Wihbey and the Board will be meeting in the future to discuss possible programming expansion options for Vinal with a goal of resubmitting a renovation/new construction project request for the either the 2018 or 2019 Master School Construction Priority List.

In addition, Interim Superintendent Wihbey and his staff will be reviewing the potential for renovation/new construction of Windham Technical High School and Oliver Wolcott Technical High School.

The Board members thanked Mr. Diamantis and Mr. Clemer for taking the time to speak with them today.

After the meeting, Mr. Clemer and Mr. Diamantis conducted a walkthrough of the Bullard-Havens facility in advance of a project to renovate the "A" building and athletic fields.

## **B. Career Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC)**

At the October 17, 2017 Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Trefry requested the Board members be provided dates of future CTEAC meetings in order that they might attend. Interim Superintendent Wihbey provided a list of CTEAC dates for the 2017-18 school-year. If any Board members are interested in attending please let Diane Curtis. Mr. Trefry suggested Board members select those CTEAC meetings for trade technologies within the Architecture and Construction Career Cluster that are up for re-authorization. Diane will forward a list to the Board members of those trades within that cluster.

## **Report of the Interim Superintendent of Schools**

### **Hosting of Today's Meeting**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey thanked Principal Cavallaro for hosting today's meeting and congratulated him on his leadership.

### **Mechatronics**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey assured everyone that Mechatronics is not closing at Vinal Technical High School. The program is moving to E.C. Goodwin Technical High School.

### **Connecticut 2016 Cohort Four Year Graduation Rate**

As a follow-up to last month's Board meeting, Interim Superintendent Wihbey shared last year's graduation rates in comparison to the state's average. The CTECS graduation rates were in the mid to high 90's compared to 87.4 % which was the state's average.

A copy of the report was included in the Board member's packets and is also contained in the official file of this meeting.

### **General Dynamics Electric Boat**

On November 8, 2017, Interim Superintendent Wihbey and Mr. John Murphy met with Ms. Maura Dunn, Vice President of HR and Administration, General Dynamics, Electric Boat. Interim Superintendent Wihbey shared the results of his initial meeting with Maura Dunn and hopes she will attend a future CTECS Board meeting to make a presentation regarding her company's need for highly qualified workers (60,000 or more) across various disciplines including manufacturing welding and plumbing. If Connecticut fails to provide a trained workforce, these jobs will be lost to other states that are willing to

make the investment in renovated schools/training centers and equipment. Interim Superintendent is looking forward to working with Ms. Dunn to assist in meeting their needs moving forward.

**Pell Grants**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey was happy to report that the ability to issue Pell Grants to students has been restored for the Stratford School for Aviation, CT Aero Tech, and Bristol T.E.C. He thanked Commissioner Wentzell for her support and assistance. The CTECS is in the process of working on a partnership with the Board of Regents for Higher Education where they will assist in processing the Pell Grants. In the meantime, the CTECS is ready to process the applications

**Vinal Technical High School Update on Public Safety Criminal Justice Pilot Program**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey reported that Vinal Tech’s Public Safety Criminal Justice program was one of the top chosen shops at Vinal during their exploratory phase. Interim Superintendent Wihbey congratulated Dr. Menounos and her team on this accomplishment. Interim Superintendent Wihbey will continue to update the Board members on the progress of this program.

**IX. Report of the Chair**

Mr. Trefry announced there will be a meeting of the Superintendent Search Committee following today’s Board meeting. Mr. Trefry spoke about the need to fill the vacancy on the board and is hopeful the slot will be filled soon.

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Quality and Policy**

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on November 14, 2017 just prior to today’s CTECS Board meeting. The committee had a discussion on the Ideal Teacher Profile and Ideal Administrator Profile. The Committee members also had a discussion on the master schedule timeline.

**B. Outreach and Finance**

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on October 14, 2017 just prior to today’s CTECS Board meeting. The committee received an update on the Expenditure and Revenue Reports and the CTECS Report of Expenditures by School Results (2016-17).

**XI. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**XII. Adjourn**

The CTECS Board adjourned its meeting at 2:45 PM

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*  
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant  
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System