

## **CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD**

### **Minutes of Meeting – December 12, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on December 12, 2017 at Vinal Technical High School, 60 Daniels Street, Middletown, 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. Gina Chiarella  
Dr. Daisy Cocco De Filippis  
Ms. Karen Eichstaedt  
Commissioner Scott Jackson  
Commissioner Catherine Smith

Absent: Mr. Peter Hoecklin  
Mr. Fitz Walker

#### **II. Public Participation**

There was no public participation

#### **III. Welcome**

##### **Hosting of Today’s Meeting**

Mr. Trefry thanked Dr. Menounos for hosting today’s meeting. Dr. Menounos welcomed the Board members and spoke about Vinal Tech’s successful open house, the new Criminal Justice Program and also spoke about the partnerships underway with Middlesex Community College and Asnuntuck Community College to run precision machining adult programs at Vinal Tech in the spring.

Dr. Menounos introduced the following twelfth grade students: Nicole Zalewski (MDET) and Chance Sherman (Collision Repair) to the Board members who spoke about their experience at Vinal Tech and their post-secondary plans.

##### **A. Showcase Students of Excellence - Information Systems Technology (IST)**

Dr. Menounos introduced Don Mason CTECS IST Education Consultant and Mr. Joe Szydlowski Information Systems Technology Instructor to the Board members. Students, Jarryd Saly, Grade 12; Nicholas Ferrara, Grade 12; Rajeev Salwan, Grade 12; Jazer Lockhart, Grade 11, and Robert (RJ) Hill were also introduced to the Board members and presented a Power on the IST work they learn in their trade technology. Their presentation also included work they experience during work based learning.

The Board members were very impressed with their presentation and thanked the instructors and students for sharing their work.

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

#### **IV. Consent Agenda**

##### **A. Consideration of Minutes**

The board voted unanimously that the minutes of the November 14, 2017 CTECS Board meeting be approved with the following correction. Abstained: Comer

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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Executive Session**

##### **A. Search Committee**

The Board voted unanimously to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent search. Present in executive session were: Mr. Trefry, Ms. Keavney, Ms. Comer, Ms. Chiarella, Dr. De Filippis, Ms. Eichstaedt, Commissioner Jackson, and Commissioner Smith.

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Ms. Eichstaedt, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene in Public Session at 2:20 p.m. and to consider a motion at this time to vote on the recommendation to SDE Commissioner Dianna Wentzell the appointment of the Superintendent of the Connecticut Education and Career System.

#### **VI. Items Requiring Action**

##### **Recommendation Concerning the Appointment of the Superintendent of CTECS**

Resolved; that the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board pursuant to Public Act 17-237 Section 3 recommends to Commissioner Dianna Wentzell that Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey be appointed Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System.

On a motion by Ms. Keavney, seconded by Commissioner Smith moved, the CTECS Board support the recommendation to Commissioner Dianna Wentzell the appointment of Jeffrey Wihbey as Superintendent of the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System.

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

Absent: Hoecklin, Walker

Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wentzell will be making the final appointment. Board members felt it important to note that this was a competitive process in which a variety of qualified individuals applied and the interview process resulted in Interim Superintendent Wihbey being identified as the recommended candidate.

The Board members congratulated Interim Superintendent on their recommendation and look forward to working with Interim Superintendent Wihbey. Interim Superintendent Wihbey thanked the Board members for this recommendation and for all of their support during this transition.

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

### **Items for Discussion**

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

##### **A. Ella T. Grasso Technical High School Project Update**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced CTECS Education Consultant Al Richmond, DCS Project Manager, Dennis Tovey, Moser Pilon Nelson Architect Richard Brown and Arcadis Corporation Project Manager Brian Oblong to the Board members. They presented a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the construction of the new Ella T. Grasso Technical High School in Groton.

Mr. Richmond, Mr. Tovey, Mr. Brown and Mr. Oblong responded to questions the Board members raised about the construction including Green technology, and the ability for student to work on the project. Interim Superintendent Wihbey felt it important to note there will not be an effect on academic programs during the renovation. Additionally, students will not need to learn in portable classrooms.

The Board members were impressed with the presentation and thanked the team for taking the time to speak with them today and look forward to visiting Grasso Tech and possibly seeing the construction site prior to the start of the Board meeting scheduled there on January 16, 2018.

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

##### **B. Technology Analysis (Status of Technology Assessment for the District)**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced Mr. James Mindek, CTECS Director of Technology Operations to the Board members. Mr. Mindek shared some background information in his areas of experience and provided a PowerPoint presentation on the status of technology assessment for the district. His presentation included:

- Understanding the district's current landscape;
- What is a technology assessment and why do one;
- How is the assessment being completed;
- Where are we with the assessment;
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) observations to this point; and
- Next steps – completion of assessment

Mr. Mindek responded to questions the Board members raised about the status of technology assessment for the district.

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

## **Other**

### **Vinal Technical High School Construction Project**

Board members had an opportunity to tour Vinal Technical High School prior to today's CTECS Board meeting. Interim Superintendent Wihbey continues to work with the office of School Construction Grants to discuss programming expansion options for Vinal Tech and shared some of the ideas with the Board members CTECS is exploring. Interim Superintendent Wihbey reminded Board members of the concern DAS has as to whether or not the State of CT can afford to renovate/build a new Vinal Tech given the enrollment and program offerings.

## **VIII. Report of the Chair**

There was no report of the Chair.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

### **A. Quality and Policy**

The Quality and Policy Subcommittee met on December 12, 2017 just prior to today's CTECS Board meeting. The committee received an update from the Physical Education Steering committee of the plan of action in order to meet areas of improvement i.e. pass rate of female compared to males. The committee also received an update from Interim Superintendent Wihbey on the Ideal Teacher Profile and Ideal Administrator Profile and the action taken so far on what represents a great teacher and great administrator. The Committee will continue to be updated on the feedback of these committees.

### **B. Outreach and Finance**

#### **Expenditure & Revenue Report**

The Outreach and Finance Subcommittee met on December 12, 2017 just prior to today's CTECS Board meeting. The committee received an update on the Expenditure and Revenue Reports and had an in-depth discussion about the state budget deficit.

As the State of Connecticut continues to experience projected revenue shortfalls in its fiscal year 2017-18 budget, the administration took action on November 17, 2017 to reduce state agency budgets by approximately 4.5% by implementing additional holdbacks. For the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, the new holdbacks total approximately \$6.7MM.

If the district, were to refill 100% refill of its identified vacancies by January 19, 2018, a projected deficit of approximately \$2.6 million would result. If the district were to delay refill of its non-instructional vacancies until July 2018 at the earliest, savings of approximately \$700,000 could be achieved. The district continues to prioritize its vacancies, pursue opportunities to further reduce school and central office operating costs and review opportunities to shift operating costs to other funding sources.

Commissioner Jackson is recommending the creation of a narrative detailing the impact of the holdback on the district. Upon creation of this document, a meeting should be requested with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for further discussion.

#### **Pell Grants**

The Committee members also received an update on Pell Grants. The Committee members congratulated Mr. Uccello and his team in getting the Pell Grants reinstated retro actively to September, 2017 for the Stratford and Aero Tech Aviation Schools and Bristol TEC. In light of the Pell grant news, the Board is requesting that Interim Superintendent Wihbey and staff take another look at adult education programming and tuition rates.

#### **The New Haven Manufacturing Association (NHMA)**

Commissioner Jackson reported on good press from the Hartford Business Journal. The New Haven Manufacturing Association (NHMA) pushed out a survey to members and came back with some interesting results including that manufacturers are happy with their employees who came through the CTECS and seek graduates of the CTECS specifically in the manufacturing industry. The Committee members endorsed the idea of having NHMA present to the Board at a future meeting.

#### **X. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### **XI. Adjourn**

The CTECS Board adjourned its meeting at 3:28 PM

Prepared by:



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Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant  
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System