

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD
Quality and Policy Minutes of Meeting – September 18, 2019

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board (hereafter “Board”) met on September 18, 2019 at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, 298 Oregon Road, Meriden, CT 06451.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Eichstaedt called the meeting to order at 8:41am.

Present: Robert Trefry, Board Member
Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Board Member
Karen Eichstaedt, Board Member
Lindy Lee Gold, Board Member
Jeffrey Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

Dial in: Fitz Walker, Board Member

Absent: Commissioner Westby, Board Member
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Board Member
Peter Hoecklin, Board Member

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Consideration of the Minutes for June 18, 2019 Meeting

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the June 18, 2019 meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Keavney, Eichstaedt, Trefry, Gold, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Westby, Hoecklin, De Filippis

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

A. School & District Scoreboard/School Performance

Mr. Wihbey reviewed the CTECS District Scoreboard report with the committee members. Mr. Vincent Diana, CTECS Education Consultant, provided the data. The data includes

demographics, discipline, attendance, testing/program scores, inventory, surveys, mastery scores, CAPT, SAT, etc.

The scoreboards are provided quarterly to all principals and are also used for the principal evaluations. Mr. Wihbey reviewed the indicators in detail with the Board members. Mr. Wihbey called special attention to the data's highlights of African American students' achievements with higher graduation rates throughout the district. Mr. Wihbey could not be prouder of the students and their success.

Mr. Wihbey also shared his desire to see the districts climate survey numbers increase. Parent involvement needs to go up 40%, with goals for student and staff participation to go up 90%. He also pointed out the need for a 5% increase in teacher attendance.

Overall, Mr. Wihbey is pleased with the growth from last year. Some examples: graduation rate 97%, increased SAT scores, students passing all physical assessments, as well as the reduced gap between male and female participants in physical assessments. Mr. Wihbey attributes progress to the CTECS leadership, Dr. Menounos, and her team of Consultants, with all their efforts in providing high quality professional development.

Mr. Wihbey ended by stating, "One of the major goals of the district is to improve student growth while the students are with us."

Questions/Discussion: Mr. Wihbey commended Mr. Diana on a job well done producing the report.

Mr. Trefry suggested thinking about the coming school year and ways to show trends in the districts growth.

A copy of the School and District Scoreboard School Performance Data is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Incoming Freshman Class

Mr. Wihbey reviewed the CTECS Grade Nine Enrollment Comparison Chart with the committee members. Mr. Vincent Diana, CTECS Education Consultant, provided the data. The numbers include data from October 1, 2018 through September 16, 2019.

The chart shows significant growth in enrollment throughout the district.

Questions/Discussion: Ms. Eichstaedt shared her enthusiasm in the fact the 3,000 plus students get an opportunities to break generational patterns by enrolling in CTECS technical high schools that provide exposure to trades that can provide means to a better life right out of high school.

Mr. Wihbey shared his excitement in seeing the opportunities for students to earn living wage and not minimum wage employment.

CTECS Grade Nine Enrollment Comparison

	October 1, 2018	September 16, 2019	
School	Grade 9	Grade 9	Change
Abbott	181	183	2
Bullard	205	236	31
Cheney	180	186	6
Ellis	167	200	33
Goodwin	198	191	-7
Grasso	144	166	22
Kaynor	216	221	5
Norwich	169	184	15
O'Brien	180	184	4
Platt	236	232	-4
Prince	183	214	31
Vinal	94	132	38
Whitney	192	204	12
Wilcox	211	224	13
Windham	139	124	-15
Wolcott	168	152	-16
Wright	118	107	-11
TOTALS	2981	3140	159

A copy of the School and Grade Nine Enrollment Comparison Chart is included in the official file of this meeting.

C. Ad Hoc Transitional Separation Committee

Ms. Eichstaedt introduced CTECS Legal Director, Susan Scott to lead the Ad Hoc Transitional Separation Committee discussion.

The new date for agency independence is July 1, 2022. Ms. Scott reviewed the timeline document and explained the need for reporting processes, transition processes, and budget processes in order for a smooth transition to happen. Ms. Scott also explained how the CTECS Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) is a great tool needed for the transition process, however more elements such as, evaluations of current and future trade programs, as well as, other long range plans of priorities (summary of capital equipment /improvements/ legislative proposals/ HR and collective bargaining agreements /staff trainings) are all needed in order to move forward. She assures the processes will be ongoing.

Mr. Wihbey shared the need for the contract with the CT School for Change to assist with the transition to independence. As well as, an Ad Hoc Committee including staff and Board members.

Questions/Discussion: Mr. Trefry shared the more pieces that are in place the better flexibility to move faster to push up the independency date.

Mr. Wihbey shared how the CTECS independence plan is imbedded In the CTECS Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) (Goal 4).

Mr. Wihbey also shared his gratitude to Ms. Scott for all of her immeasurable guidance and leadership.

A copy of the Independence Timeline – July 2022 is included in the official file of this meeting.

D. Vacancy Update

Ms. Eichstaedt introduced CTECS Management Analyst, Joe Uccello to present the latest vacancy update report to committee members. Mr. Uccello shared full-time general fund position data as of October 18, 2019 as follows: There currently are 209 vacancies – 121 of which are instructional – 88 remaining are made up of Admin, food services, fiscal, clerical, plant, consultants, etc. In addition to the 209 vacancies, there are 31 on hold. Leaving 178 positions, and of those 178, OPM has authorized 86 positions. Of the 86 approved positions, 56 are instructional, 32 are academic, 18 are trade, and 6 are student support.

Mr. Uccello shared the annual salary for the 209 positions as \$14,947, 537.00.

Questions/Discussion: Mr. Wihbey shared his enthusiasm that substitute teachers are down 47% this school year.

Ms. Keavney complemented Mr. Uccello’s chart presentation.

A copy of the Vacancy Report is included in the official file of this meeting.

V. Adjourn

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Vote:	In Favor:	Keavney, De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Trefry, Gold, Walker
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	Westby, Hoecklin, De Filippis

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38am.

Prepared by: Ronke Stallings, CTECS