

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of the October 17, 2017 Meeting of the of the Sub Committee on Outreach and Finance

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Committee on Outreach and Finance met on October 17, 2017 at H.H. Ellis Technical High School, 613 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Present: Commissioner Scott Jackson, Chairperson of the Outreach and Finance Committee
Robert Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Patricia Keavney, Vice-Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
James Chasse, CTHSS Education Consultant
Jeffrey Wihbey, Interim Superintendent of the CTHSS

Absent: Commissioner Catherine Smith, Committee Member
Gina Chiarella, Committee Member
Mr. Fitz Walker, Committee Member

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. CTHSS Report of Expenditures by School Results (2016-17)

Discussion on this item was tabled until the November 12, 2017 meeting

B. CTHSS Report on Student Transportation Vehicles

Section 10-97b (a) of the C.G. S., requires the State Board of Education to replace any school bus that (1) is twelve years or older and is in service at any technical high school, or (2) has been subject to an out-of-service order, as defined in section 14-1, for two consecutive years for the same reason.

Section 10-97b (b) of the C.G. S., requires the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) to provide a report to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education and finance, revenue and bonding a report on the replacement of school buses in service in the Connecticut Technical High School System. Such report shall include the number of school buses replaced in the

previous school year and a projection of school buses anticipated to be replaced in the upcoming school year.

Mr. Chasse reported for the current 2017-18 school year, the Connecticut Technical High School System has **twenty (20) buses that will be removed from service in January 2018** due to the twelve year threshold. No buses will be removed from service due to out-of-service orders.

Subject to the submission of a bond request and approval of the State Bond Commission, the CTHSS will pursue replacement of these 20 buses which are used for transporting students to offsite production work locations and to athletic and student activity events.

A copy of the report on student transportation vehicles is included in the official file of this meeting.

C. Report on School Budgets

Mr. Chasse provided an update on the latest information impacting the district's operating budget for fiscal year 2017-18. The State continues to operate under an Executive Order Resource Allocation Plan which provides the district a temporary general fund operating budget of \$156.7MM for the current fiscal year (FY 2017-18) which began on July 1, 2017.

Mr. Chasse summarized the temporary operating budget by primary cost center. The payroll budget of approximately \$136.0MM includes funding for full-time (\$114.8), part-time (\$15.4MM) and other payroll costs (i.e. separation costs, overtime and longevity) of \$2.9MM. It also reflects project savings from state furlough days and delayed refill of vacancies.

To date, the district has been allocated approximately \$78.4MM which is budgeted for the following line items:

- Payroll: \$66.6M (85%)
- Fuel and Utilities: \$4.2MM (5.3%)
- School-based budget: \$1.8MM (2.3%)
- Central Office and Centralized budgets: \$5.8MM (7.4%)

If the ongoing budget negotiations do not result in an approved state budget before January 1, 2018, a third quarter allotment of approximately \$39.2M should be made available. Given the temporary nature of the Resource Allocation Plan, each school has been allocated \$100,000 to begin the procurement of critical and essential supplies and services.

Mr. Chasse provided a break-down by school of the 2017-18 fiscal year school-based budgets. He also provided a vacancy analysis and that the district's vacancy count is very fluid given the lack of a state budget coupled with the recently completed SEBAC and state employee collective bargaining contract negotiations.

As the district currently expects to fill 1,521 of its 1,592 legislatively-authorized full-time general fund positions, the current vacancy rate is approximately 9.9%.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the budget. On October 1, 2017 each school was allocated another \$50,000 to bring the total allocation to date to \$100,000 for each school.

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

Other

Commissioner Jackson announced Ms. McCree has retired and wished her well on her retirement.

Commissioner Jackson shared with the committee members that on October 6, 2017 he attended Manufacturing Mania in Groton, CT -- Dream it Do it and advocated on behalf of the district. On October 19, 2017 Commissioner Jackson to attend the Girls in Manufacturing Summit and continue to advocate for the district.

Mr. Trefry requested the CTHSS Board members be provided dates of future CTAC meeting in order that they might attend. Commissioner Jackson indicated that he will be sending Deputy Commissioner Kurt Westby along with Todd Berch, Apprenticeship Program Manager to a future meeting.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Prepared by: *Alane Curtis*

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Connecticut Technical High School System