

**CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD**

**Minutes of the December 13, 2016 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 December 13, 2016, 2016 at Henry Abbott Technical High School, 21 Hayestown Avenue, Danbury, CT

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Trefry called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM

Present: John Barrasso Chairperson of the Outreach and Finance Committee

- Gina Chiarella, Committee Member
- Chris DiPentima, Committee Member
- Patricia Keavney, Vice-Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
- Commissioner Catherine Smith, Committee Member
- Nivea L. Torres, Superintendent of the CTHSS
- Robert Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
- Pasquale Ciarleglio, CTHSS Education Consultant
- Ms. Patricia Fennessy, CTHSS Education Consultant
- Ms. Heidi Griffen, CTHSS Education Consultant
- David Kapitulik, CTHSS Education Consultant
- Don Mason, CTHSS Education Consultant
- Raymond Mencio, CTHSS Education Consultant
- John Murphy, CTHSS Education Consultant
- Alexander Richmond, CTHSS Education Consultant

Absent: Commissioner Scott Jackson  
Mr. Fitz Walker

**II. Public Participation**

There was no public participation

**III. Minutes of the November 15, 2016 Meeting of the Outreach and Finance.**

Mr. Trefry moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting of the Outreach and Finance.

Vote: In Favor: Barrasso, Chiarella, DiPentima, Keavney, Smith, Trefry  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0  
Absent: Jackson, Walker

Motion carried unanimously.

## **IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System**

### **A. Budget Update**

Superintendent Torres introduced Mr. Chasse who provided an update on latest information impacting the district's operating budget for fiscal year 2016-17. The district continues to pursue the refill of critical instructional and operational positions.

Mr. Chasse provided a breakdown of the current vacant positions. The latest projections assume that 35 full-time positions approved for refill by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will be filled by January 20, 2017. The projections also assume an additional 50 full-time time general fund positions (including two durationals) currently awaiting approval to post will be filled by February 3, 2017.

The fiscal year 2016-17 revised budget is \$158,466,509. There is currently a \$500,000 reserve for emergency building repairs in the event that additional bonding is not approved before June 30, 2017 to ensure funding is available in the event of unforeseen winter weather costs due to maintenance vacancies.

The projected surplus is subject to change as a result of ongoing collective bargaining negotiations between the State Employee Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) and the State of Connecticut.

Further rescission actions that might be taken during the 2016-17 fiscal year will greatly impact strategic planning efforts and require further programmatic reductions.

The State Bond Commission meeting scheduled for December 9, 2016 was cancelled. The district continues to pursue a bond allocation of \$2,575,000 for various infrastructure repairs. In the event that this request is not approved before the close of the fiscal year, the operating budget could be negatively impacted. The Superintendent has notified OPM of this concern and will continue to update the Board. The next regular meeting of the State Bond Commission is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2017.

Questions and discussion included: Clarification on separation of services, explanation of vacation and sick leave payouts, SEBAC negotiations, pension funding, and number of eligible retirees.

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

### **B. Career Pathways at the new Platt THS**

Goal Number One of the CTHSS Strategic Action Plan (Enhanced Employer Engagement and Alignment with Industry Needs) is to partner with business and industry to develop career technical education programs that provide CTHSS students with the skills and work habits to be successful in a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> Century work environment. The Framework for Success 1.3 and 1.4 is to develop a clearly articulated trade/technology review process (1.3) and respond to the changing needs of business/industry (1.4).

Superintendent Torres opened the meeting first by sharing that this plan was shared at the December 9, 2016 Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy. Superintendent Torres also shared with the Committee members that there was a construction meeting on December 9, 2016 with the Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Currey, Commissioner Wentzell, OPM, and the Department of

Construction Services. The future of many of the CTHSS school renovation projects will be dependent on the state's fiscal situation. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled with this same group on December 14, 2016. Superintendent Torres cautioned that although there are a number of renovations planned, the CTHSS continues to have discussions with OPM and DAS. Superintendent Torres reminded the Committee members that the CTHSS is looking at enrollment from 7:30AM to 9:00PM to accommodate partnerships and capitalizing on assets i.e. not having to increase capital expenses.

Superintendent Torres introduced Al Richmond who provided a construction update on the additions and alterations renovation project at Platt Technical High School including the factors driving the proposal. The total estimated cost of the project is \$124,566,000. The project is expected to go out to bid in the spring, 2018.

The following CTHSS Education Consultants walked the Committee members through each of the trade areas: Pasquale Ciarleglio, Ms. Patricia Fennessy, Ms. Heidi Griffen, David Kapitulik, Don Mason, Raymond Mencio, John Murphy, Alexander Richmond, and Hank Weiner, CTHSS Education Consultants. Superintendent Torres added that each of the trade areas are mindful of the regional workforce needs and that this plan was developed in concert with the Workforce Investment Board, Business and Industry Partners and taking into consideration both current and future workforce trends for the state.

The presentation on the career and technical programs at Platt THS opened with Mr. Murphy discussing Connecticut's Workforce Investment Board areas and the CTHSS school locations, along with a map depicting the 14 technologies and eight career cluster technologies that will occupy the new Platt THS. The renovations of Platt THS provided another opportunity to work on taking a regional approach in determining the list of programs, for the new Platt THS. The CTHSS has aligned themselves with the Department of Economic and Community Development's (DECD) statewide strategy which is focuses around the six industry clusters as follows: Hospitality and Tourism, Construction, Manufacturing, Health/Science, Information Technology and Sustainable Architecture.

Mr. Murphy pointed out new trades for the school which include: Biotechnology, electronics is changing its focus to pre-electrical engineering aligned to the STEM cluster, and Sustainable Architecture will be relocated to Region 3.

Each of the following Education Consultants then spoke to their career cluster technologies that will occupy the new Platt THS. Their presentations included industry data, projections and careers that show in-demand growth and the process.

Mr. Ciarleglio began with the **Architecture and Construction Cluster** including the **e-HVAC and e-Plumbing programs** and outlined what the term e-construction relates to.

Mr. Mencio spoke to the **Architecture and Construction Cluster** including the **e-Carpentry and e-Electrical programs** and outlined what the how they continue to grow.

Ms. Fennessy described the **Health Science Cluster** including the **Biotechnology program**. Currently there are no other comprehensive grade 9-12 Biotechnology programs offered to High School students in the State of CT.

Ms. Griffen described the **Human Services, Hospitality and Tourism Clusters** including the **Culinary Arts and Hairdressing and Cosmetology programs** and how they continue to grow.

Mr. Mason described the **Information Technology and Communications Cluster** including the **information systems technology (IST)** and how it continues to grow. The Department of Labor forecasts IST as an “In-Demand Growth Job” in CT.

Mr. Murphy described the **Sustainable Architecture** program. The CTHSS is currently exploring areas for this program in order to respond to the central part of the. Currently, there is a study underway to determine a future location to address the regional needs for the program. Currently, the CTHSS does not have sustainable architecture represented in Region 3 within the state.

Mr. Murphy described the **Manufacturing Cluster** including the **precision machining technology program**. CT is projecting thousands of openings each year in production occupations.

Mr. Mason described the **Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM Cluster)** including the **pre-electrical engineering and applied electronics programs** and how they continue to grow. Sikorsky has a constant need for instrumentation, computer/software, electrical, avionics and control engineers.

Mr. Kapitulik described the **Transportation Cluster** including the **automotive technology, collision repair and refinishing** programs and the stability of the programs and how the CTHSS is supplying entry level positions in the workforce in the area.

Questions and discussion included: Clarification on the Weatherization Program, whether program offerings are aligned with the needs of the business community, overall awareness in STEM and Manufacturing and Platt THS focus around that. The team was applauded on the move of the IT program from the Microsoft based to information technology base.

Mr. Barrasso, thanked Mr. Kapitulik and Commissioner Jackson on a sizeable apprenticeship grant, a large portion of which will utilized by students in the aviation maintenance program.

In closing, Superintendent Torres thanked her staff for their thoughtful presentation and the time they took to review statewide and county data and projections for the next 10 years to be responsive to workforce needs.

A copy of the Platt Technical High School Renovation Plan PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

**V. The next meeting of the Committee on Outreach and Finance will be held on January 17, 2017.**

**VI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM

Prepared by: *Diane Curtis*  
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant