

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes of the May 16, 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 May 16, 2017 at Emmett O'Brien Technical High School, CT.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Trefry called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. Mr. Trefry announced that Mr. Barrasso has resigned from the Board and commended him on his hard work and dedication and for serving on the Board and chairing the subcommittee. Mr. Trefry proposed the idea of temporarily blending the Outreach and Finance Sub-committee meetings into the full CTHSS Board meetings in an effort to improve on efficiency. He also proposed the idea of holding the Quality and Policy Subcommittee meetings the same day of the CTHSS Board meetings (meeting just prior). The Committee members were in favor the idea.

Present: Gina Chiarella, Committee Member
Commissioner Scott Jackson
Patricia Keavney, Vice-Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Robert Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
James Chasse, CTHSS Education Consultant
Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent of the CTHSS
Ms. Kathy Demsey, Chief Financial Officer

Absent: Chris DiPentima, Committee Member
Commissioner Catherine Smith, Committee Member
Mr. Fitz Walker, Committee Member

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Minutes of the April 18, 2017 and May 4, 2017 Meeting of the Outreach and Finance.

Commissioner Jackson moved, Ms. Keavney, Mr. Walker seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 and May 4, 2017 meetings of the Outreach and Finance.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Budget Update

Mr. Chasse provided an update on the latest information impacting the district's operating budget for fiscal year 2016-17 Budget. On May 10, 2017, due to a projected shortfall in revenue collections, the Honorable Governor Dannel P. Malloy issued a Deficit Mitigation Plan to ensure the state's current year budget ends in balance. Included in the Deficit Mitigation Plan is a reduction of \$2 million to the district's operating budget. Mr. Chasse shared a chart that provided a comparison of the revised budgets to the latest cost projections.

At the May 12, 2017 State Bond Commission meeting an allocation of \$1,285,188 was approved that will enable the district to complete several critical infrastructure repair projects during the summer. The CTHSS is still awaiting consideration of a bond allocation of \$2.5M for the replacement of classroom and network equipment.

Questions/discussion included: Chrome books will be purchased from general operating funding and will be in place for the start of the school year. Also discussed were the implications of the one line item budget versus a two line item budget and if there is a process for the CTHSS to move funding.

A discussion ensued about the latest available information regarding a proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. The CTHSS staff will be working in conjunction with agency staff to develop a contingency plan in response to the latest budget proposal. Upon completion, the proposal will be sent to the board for their consideration. Commissioner Jackson noted that a \$5 million dollar budget reduction is something one would never see at a local education agencies (LEAs)

The board expressed interest in creating a longer term vision for the CTHSS.

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

B. 2018-19 Proposed Tuition Increase

Mr. Chasse presented the Tuition and Fees Fee Schedule for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 for the following programs: Aviation, Bristol Post Graduates, Apprentice, Extension, Credit Recovery, School Lunch and Breakfast, and Education Production Rates.

The State of Connecticut continues to face significant financial challenges that may lead to fewer resources for state agencies. School districts – including the CTHSS must continue to explore all options to reduce costs while generating additional revenues to support the operating costs.

As costs continue to increase and operating budgets are subject to further reductions, the ability to generate additional revenue in support of educational programs is necessary. It is recommended that the Connecticut Technical High School System Board approve this proposed tuition and fee schedule which will enable the district to continue to provide affordable educational opportunities to adults in need of additional training and school lunches and breakfasts to our secondary population. In the event that the district is subject to significant state budget reductions over the next 24 months that impact any of these programs, the CTHSS reserves the right to revisit the tuition and fee schedule and propose increases to the Board.

As the operations for most of the full-time adult programs have been suspended – including licensed practical nurse (LPN), surgical technology, medical assisting and dental assisting – what remains is the aviation maintenance program and a post-graduate program (including Automotive, Culinary Arts, Electronics, HVAC, Precision Machining and Welding) at Bristol Technical Education Center.

Presently, the district enrolls approximately 86 adult students in the two (2) aviation programs and 68 adult post-graduate students at Bristol. More than 2,000 adult students are enrolled in part-time adult apprentice and extension programs. Course examples include electrical, plumbing, basic telecommunications, and motor controls.

Questions/Discussion: Whether or not the current and/or proposed fees cover the current operating costs of the programs. Would the CTHSS be better off not charging all students for school lunches? It was requested the CTHSS look more into this and come back to the June Board meeting with a response.

At this time the CTHSS did not recommend a tuition increase for the aviation maintenance program because it is awaiting legislative consideration of the proposal to recognize the CTHSS as a post-secondary educational institution. If approved, students may be eligible for Pell grants.

A motion was called at this time.

Commissioner Jackson moved, Ms. Keavney seconded, that the committee recommends to the CTHSS Board the approval of the Proposed Tuition and Fee Schedule for fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the Tuition and Fees for Fiscal Years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Executive Summary is included in the official file of this meeting.

V. The next meeting of the Committee on Outreach and Finance will be held on June 20, 2017.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

Prepared by: *Alane Curtis*

Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System