

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of the September 19, 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 September 19, 2017 at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, New Britain CT.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:20 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, Assistant Superintendent of the CTHSS

Absent: Gina Chiarella, Committee Member
Chris DiPentima, Committee Member
Commissioner Catherine Smith, 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. Expenditure & Revenue Reports

Commissioner Jackson introduced CTHSS Education Consultant, Mr. Chasse to the Board members who provided a report on CTHSS Expenditures and Revenues.

Mr. Chasse provided an update on the latest information impacting the district's operating budget for fiscal year 2017-18 highlighting some significant changes since the last update including the decline in the estimated payroll costs of approximately \$1.9 Million. \$1.4 Million of the decline is due to state employee furlough days.

The State continues to operate under an Executive Order Resource Allocation Plan which provides the district a temporary annual 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 \$136.1MM includes funding for full-time (\$116.19MM), part-time (\$15.2MM) and other payroll costs (i.e. separation costs, overtime and longevity).

Normally the district is allocated 40% of its total allocation in the first quarter which began on July 1, 2017. Under the current Executive Order Resource Allocation Plan, the district has received only 25% of its total allocation. The second quarter allocation should occur on or about October 1, 2017.

Given the temporary nature of the Resource Allocation Plan, each school has been allocated \$50,000 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 9.7%. The CTHSS plans to re-fill 147 full-time general fund positions. The CTHSS currently has approximately 77 positions authorized for refill at this time.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the budget. A copy of the Expenditure and Revenue Report is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. State Auditor Report

Commissioner Jackson introduced Ms. Gloria McCree, Director of the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) for the Connecticut State Department of Education to the Committee members. Ms. McCree provided some background information about her reporting structure with the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education. Ms. McCree provided advice to the Committee members on how to manage appropriate segregation of duties during a time where fiscal and support staffing levels are shrinking. Ms. McCree also provided guidance in steps that the District should take to address continued audit findings. She shared with the Committee members the SBE approved current audit plan which calls for conducting compliance and/or implementation reviews at Wilcox, Whitney, J.M. Wright and Windham for the 2017-18 school year. In the future, Ms. McCree will be presenting quarterly reports to the Outreach and Finance Subcommittee as needed or upon request of the Subcommittee and will updates on the districts efforts to resolve any findings and the results of the four reviews.

The Committee members thanked Ms. McCree for her time and update.

C. Aviation Follow-up

Interim Superintendent Wihbey reported that at last month's board meeting the Aviation tuition rate was increased to \$7,200 for the December 2017 Cohort. As the Committee members are aware, the CTHSS is currently trying to reinstate the ability for students to receive Pell Grants. Mr. Wihbey reported that a meeting has been scheduled with the Board of Regents for Higher Education's Chief of Staff Dr. Alice Pritchard and SDE Chief of Fiscal/Administrative Services Mr. Gary Pescosolido to discuss procuring half of a financial aid person in order to re-establish the Pell Grants. Mr. Wihbey

reported that the CTHSS is still accredited for one more year and has resolved the application process with the US Department of Education. The CTHSS will be coming back to the Board in February, 2018 as to a more appropriate tuition rate based on the actual cost figures and comparison to the market rate. The next cohort is scheduled to begin in September 2018.

Mr. Wihbey publically thanked Ms. Kathy Demsey for dispatching support in the form of staff to the CTHSS.

D. Update on Outreach Efforts (Define)

Commissioner Jackson spoke about the extraordinary value of the Connecticut Technical High School System. Commissioner Jackson expressed his desire for the CTHSS Central office and schools to continue their outreach efforts in presenting these outreach opportunities to 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Prepared by: *Alane Curtis*

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