

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes of Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
H.H. Ellis THS, 613 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT 06239
October 17, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on October 17, 2017 at H. H. Ellis Technical High School, 613 Upper Maple Street, Danielson, CT 06239

I. Call to Order

Ms. Keavney called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Present: Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Karen Eichstaedt, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Peter Hoecklin, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Jeffrey Wihbey, Interim Superintendent of Schools
James Chasse, CTHSS Education Consultant
Vincent Diana, CTHSS Education Consultant
James Mindek, Bureau Chief
Cynthia Mischel, CTHSS Education Consultant
Bea Tinty, CTHSS Education Consultant
Nichola Bankuty, CTHSS Education Consultant
Alex Pitsas, CTHSS Education Consultant
Donna Risolo, CTHSS Education Consultant

Absent:

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the September 19, 2017 Meeting

The Committee voted unanimously that the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting be approved.

Vote:	In Favor:	De Filippis, Eichstaedt, Keavney-Maruca, Hoecklin, Trefry
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0
	Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

III. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS)

A. SAT Results

Mr. Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultants Ms. Nichola Bankuty and Vincent Diana to the Committee members who shared a news release of the CTHSS results from SAT school Day and reviewed data that was provided in the Committee member's packets. Mr. Wihbey reminded the Committee members these results were just released and are currently still being reviewed by staff.

The Connecticut Technical High School System has shown some growth on the 2017 administration of the Connecticut School Day SAT. The results show the percentage of 11th-graders who took the exam that are meeting or exceeding the achievement standard increased in English Language Arts by 1.8 percentage points from 44.3 to 46.1 percent, and in mathematics it has remained at 14.3 percent. On the SAT's 200-800 point scale, average ELA scores are up by three points from 469 to 472, and by six points from 446 to 452 in mathematics over the year. Districtwide, the Connecticut Technical High School System had a 99.2% participation rate.

Mr. Diana opened the discussion on some areas that need improvement. For 2015-16 and 2016-17, SATs the ELA scores at Prince, Whitney and Wright are low. (Less than 30% met or exceeded). The district as a whole needs to improve Math scores. (14% met or exceeded compared to the state number of approximately 40% each year). Females performed lower than males on Math (Approximately 10% of females met or exceeded compared to 17% for males); African American and Hispanic students performed lower on both Math and ELA (which is in line with State averages). High Needs students performed significantly lower (which is in line with State averages).

Ms. Bankuty called the Committee members attention to the scale scores and the range in each category. We tend to focus on the percentage reaching the achievement level, which is important, but looking at the scale scores allows you to see the movement towards the achievement levels. Ms. Bankuty shared the following score ranges by level with the committee members:

Score Ranges by Level:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3+
ELA	200-410	420-470	480-620	630-800	480-800
Math	200-410	420-520	530-640	650-800	530-800

Ms. Bankuty also shared that if we look at the cohort of students (same students) that took PSAT in fall of 2015, fall of 2016 and SAT in spring of 2017, results in both ELA and Math show a decline in each test.

Ms. Bankuty and Mr. Diana also composed demographic data and statewide results from the last two years that was shared with the Committee Members.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the SAT results. Dr. Risolo and Mr. Pitsas joined the discussion.

A copy of the CTHSS SAT news release, SAT State Data 2016-17, SAT 2015-16 & 2016-17 CTHSS vs State, and SAT CTHSS Demographics charts are included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Chronic Absenteeism

Mr. Wihbey opened the discussion by defining Chronic Absenteeism and called the Committee members attention to Memo dated April 19, 2017 from Commissioner Dianna Wentzell to Superintendents of Schools regarding Reducing Chronic Absence in CT Schools. "Chronic Absence is defined as missing 10 percent or more of days of school for any reason, including all absences, excuse, unexcused, and disciplinary. Being chronically absent has a significant impact on a student's ability to read at grade level, perform academically, and graduate on time."

Mr. Wihbey also called attention to the Chronically Absent CTHSS 5 year data by school chart that was included in the Committee member's packets. When a school has more than 10% of their students listed as chronically absent, they are added to a remediation list. When the district has a 12% rate, remediation is also needed as called for by the SDE Chronically Absent handbook also provided in the Committee member's packets.

Mr. Wihbey has called into action, a Districtwide Chronic Absenteeism Steering Committee has been established and a meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2017. The Committee will be identifying strategies for improvement. We are currently gathering nominations from principals for **outstanding** social workers, guidance counselors, assistant principals, and deans based on their work reducing absenteeism to serve on the committee. The committee will conduct action research this fall on processes and will come forward with strategies that will be presented to the Principals first and then to the CTHSS Board for their suggestions and recommendations prior to moving forward to the next level.

Mr. Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultant Ms. Cynthia Mischel to the Committee Members who provided an update on Chronic Absence Progress. Her presentation the Public Act15-225, an Act Concerning Chronic Absenteeism which defines the criteria for when local and regional boards of education are required to establish attendance review teams both at the district and school level. Her presentation also included how the district is implementing school and district teams as well as methods the CTHSS is using to address chronic absenteeism.

A copy of the following handouts are included in the official file of this meeting:

- Memo dated April 19, 2017 from Commissioner Dianna Wentzell to Superintendents of Schools regarding Reducing Chronic Absence in CT Schools;
- Chronically Absent CTHSS 5 year data by school;
- CT SDE April 2017 report, "Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools: A Prevention and Intervention Guide for Schools and Districts;
- CT SDE Webinar packet: Reducing Chronic Absence in Connecticut's Schools dated May 31, 2017.

- Chronic Absence Progress Chronic Absence Progress Update PowerPoint presentation, the draft data charts entitled “Chronic absenteeism based on 2016-17 June PSIS Collection” and for students with 18+ absences including counts of students affected by type of absence are included in the official file of this meeting

The Committee members commended Mr. Wihbey and his staff for tackling this endeavor.

C. Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) (Math/Literacy)

Mr. Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultants Mr. Alex Pitsas and Dr. Donna Risolo to the Committee members.

Mr. Pitas reviewed with the Committee members the steps students take in order to successfully move through the mastery based learning program for mathematics. Mr. Pitsas walked the Committee members through the goals and pacing table that were provided in their packets. Information in the table included the minimum pacing to meet CTHSS math graduation requirements by class of 2021 and beyond; 2018, 2019 and 2020; and the minimum pacing to meet proper preparation to enter college in credit bearing course.

Dr. Risolo reviewed last year’s spring STAR reading performance data and this year’s district star goals with the Committee members. She also shared the rubric and template the schools will use in order to set their STAR reading goals and a memorandum from Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey to School Leaders regarding Spring STAR Reading Scores.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the Student Learning Outcomes for Math and Literacy.

The following handouts are included in the official file of this meeting:

- School Student Learning Objectives Mastery-Based Learning for Mathematics
- School Student Learning Objectives Mastery-Based Learning for Literacy
- School Improvement Plan 2017-2018 Template
- Memorandum from Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey to School Leaders regarding Spring STAR Reading Scores

The Committee members thanked Mr. Pitsas and Dr. Risolo for sharing this valuable information.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

Prepared by:
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant