

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes
of
Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
December 9, 2016**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on December 9, 2016 at 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT via teleconference.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Keavney called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Present: 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
Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Nivea L. Torres, Superintendent of Schools
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
Hank Weiner, CTHSS Education Consultant

Absent:

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the November 10, 2016 Meeting

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the November 10, 2016 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. 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 21st 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 with the Committee members that there was a construction meeting just prior to today's meeting 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. Superintendent Torres cautioned that although there are a number of renovations planned, the CTHSS continues to have discussions with OPM and DAS.

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, 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.

Mr. Weiner 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 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: Will the existing building remain in operation during construction, clarification regarding the sustainable architecture program locations currently and a study 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. Also discussed was how Platt THS would become an engineering center of excellence due to the needs of the area and the student body. Platt is one of the highest performing schools and programs offered need to remain very rigorous. Additional discussion included, capacity and enrollment now vs after new construction. 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. Also discussed were growth projections for the biotechnology program. Currently, the program is built for students to go on to receive an associate’s or bachelor’s degree or further. Biotechnology is currently part of the DECD strategy. Discussion also included on how Platt THS is positioned geographically with the community colleges, universities and hospitals in that area. Health care industry needs was amongst the discussion as well.

The team was applauded on the move of the IT program from the Microsoft based to information technology base.

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 Subcommittee on Quality and Policy

The next meeting of the committee will be held on January 13, 2017.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Prepared by:
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant