

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes
of
Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
February 10, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on February 10, 2017 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
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

Absent: Peter Hoecklin, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the January 13, 2017 Meeting

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the January 13, 2017 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Next Steps for Strategic Planning

Superintendent Torres shared with the Committee members an outline of the next steps for strategic planning. The Strategic Action Plan is approaching the end of its third year cycle and a new three year plan needs to be drafted by the end of the 2016-17 school year. Superintendent Torres has met and discussed the outline with Mr. Trefry.

Superintendent Torres walked the Committee members through the steps needing completion before the end of the 2016-17 school year as follows:

The CTHSS Board will be provided an annual update of the 2014-17 CTHSS Strategic Action plan by June, 2017. A decision needs to be made to continue with the four goals and if the board decides to keep them, the foundational imperatives would need to be revised. Once feedback is received from the board, the 2018-21 Strategic Action Plan

can be drafted and be in place for the 2017-18 School year. The Committee members endorsed the timeline and the outline plan for the next steps. Mr. Trefry agreed that the four goals should remain and that the CTHSS Board members need to look at the foundational imperatives and modify accordingly. It was agreed that a retreat will be scheduled to accomplish this task. It was also recommended that this topic also be discussed at the February 28, 2017 Outreach and Finance Subcommittee and full CTHSS Board meeting.

B. Phasing Out of Early Care and Education Program

At the January 17, 2017 CTHSS Board meeting Superintendent Torres shared that the CTHSS is recommending the closing of the Early Care and Education program at Bullard Havens Technical High School, effective, June, 2019. As of June, 2017 the agency that runs the on-site preschool will suspend operations at Bullard Havens as a result of low enrollment. The low enrollment is due to the expansion of the preschool program in the Bridgeport Public Schools and the growing need of Bridgeport parents for full-time infant and toddler care. The closing of the preschool program will severely impact the ability for the Early Care and Education students to complete the training towards work and job readiness and the clinical practicum hours towards earning the Preschool Child Development Credential (CDA).

The CTHSS implemented the Early Care and Education program in 2001 in one location, Bullard Havens THS in Bridgeport to meet the high need for qualified day care teachers of preschool age children. Significant changes in the Bridgeport community has shifted the focus for day care employment to infant and toddler care. The difficulty in providing students clinical practicum placements impacts the school district’s ability to continue to offer the Early Care and Education program. CTHSS will not be able to provide intensive, rigorous job-readiness and work-readiness training without an onsite preschool.

The Early Care and Education program will not accept ninth graders in the 2016-17 school year. The program will phase out and close in June, 2019.

Discussion/questions included: The number of students currently enrolled in the program (approximately 30), opportunities for present students to change their career pathway, wage rates in this trade are undervalued—another factor to close the program, and how the program is not aligned with the Strategic Action Plan’s foundational imperative number 5.

A motion was called at this time.

Mr. Trefry moved, Ms. Eichstaedt seconded that the committee agrees to recommend to the CTHSS Board the closing of the Early Care and Education Program.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

A Copy of the executive summary 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 March 10, 2017.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25
PM.

Prepared by:
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant