

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes
of
Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
March 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 March 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
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: Karen Eichstaedt, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Peter Hoecklin, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the February 10, 2017 Meeting

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the February 10, 2017 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Three Year Discipline Report

At the February 28, 2017 CTHSS Board Meeting, Superintendent Torres shared with the Board a brief report of the discipline data from 2012-13 to 2016-17 and indicated she would provide a more in-depth progress report to the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy.

Superintendent Torres began her report by calling attention to the footer at the bottom of the report defining in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions and expulsions. Superintendent Torres reported overall, the numbers are encouraging. Some highlights include: A 23% reduction in expulsions, 10% reduction in out of school suspensions, and a 23% reduction in in-school suspensions.

Superintendent Torres reviewed the incident types and assured the Committee members that she continues to monitor the numbers--the highest being Policy. Superintendent Torres also provided a mid-year update for 2016-17 cautioning that there may be a number of infractions not reported into PowerSchool. So far, the progress is very encouraging and the district has 9 expulsions, 241 out of school suspensions, and 568 in-school suspensions.

Questions/Discussion included: How does the CTHSS fare in comparison to other districts. The Superintendent will review that data once she receives it from the SDE. Committee members felt these are good numbers in comparison to the overall total enrollment.

A copy of the Discipline Data Analysis for the CTHSS is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. Next Generation Accountability Data

Connecticut's Next Generation Accountability System is a broad set of 12 indicators that help tell the story of how well a school is preparing its students for success in college, careers and life. The new system moves beyond test scores and graduation rates and instead provides a more holistic, multifactor perspective of district and school performance and incorporates student growth over time.

At the April 8, 2016 subcommittee meeting on Quality and Principal Shellman who served as the districtwide representative on the statewide committee walked the Committee members through an example of his school and his interpretation of the data.

At the February 28, 2017 CTHSS Board meeting, Superintendent Torres shared a preview of the State's Accountability Index numbers that have been released and her plans to bring this topic to the Quality and Policy Subcommittee meeting for a closer look. This report is in its second year.

Superintendent Torres shared a breakdown of the CTHSS Accountability Index and walked the Committee members through the 12 indicators for the CTHSS district versus the state. The areas are as follows: ELA, Math and Science Performance Indices, Absenteeism, College Career Ready, Preparation for CCR, Graduation, Physical Fitness and Art. This data has also been shared with school leaders who will work with their administrative teams. Superintendent Torres reported how pleased she is with the overall index number for the district which is 70.4% and also provided a school comparison of the results including their accountability index.

There was an in-depth discussion during the Superintendent's presentation on the Preparation for College and Career Readiness Indicator. Superintendent Torres and the Committee agreed that the CTHSS is not being graded fairly in this particular area. A suggestion was made that the credentials the CTHSS offers should be counted as well. For example no credits are given if you go into the military or apprenticeships because there is no way of tracking this information. Superintendent Torres reported that the Department of Labor is now providing students with a pre-apprentice card and this data should also be captured.

CTHSS highlights include: Preparation for CCR-% taking exams a 99.9% Index Rate versus the State Index of 67.6%; Graduation Indicators over 96% in all three indicators exceeding the state average; and science performance 53% versus the state average of 57%. Areas of growth continue to be ELA and Math performance and chronic absenteeism.

The Committee members requested the Superintendent prepare a proposal to bring back to the committee outlining recommendations for the College and Career Readiness Indicator. This proposal would be presented to

the CTHSS Board and then sent to the State Department of Education to be considered. The proposal would include counting students who are workforce ready by obtaining certifications or credentials in their trade as well as counting students entering the armed services. A request to modify the post-secondary entrance indicator i.e. workforce entrance, demographics, and apprenticeships will also be included in the proposal recommendation.

Superintendent Torres spoke to the school comparison results and the differences in population. She will continue to look at the schools that are doing well and find ways to replicate their practices across the district despite the difference in the demographics.

A Copy of the Next Generation Accountability Data 2015-16 Summary Index and result summary are 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 April 7, 2017.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.
PM.

Prepared by:
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