

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy May 12, 2017

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on May 12, 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: Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Peter Hoecklin, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Jeffrey Wihbey, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Nikitoula Menounos, Principal
Mary Skelly, CTHSS Education Consultant
James Chasse, CTHSS Education Consultant
Don Mason, CTHSS Education Consultant
John Murphy, CTHSS Education Consultant
Mary Skelly, CTHSS Education Consultant
John Woodmansee, Education Consultant
Bea Tinty, Education Consultant

Absent: Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Karen Eichstaedt, Member of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the April 7, 2017 Meeting

The Board voted unanimously that the minutes of the April 7, 2017 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Information Systems Technology (IST) at Windham, Eli Whitney, and Emmett O'Brien Technical High Schools

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).

Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey shared with the Committee members that the CTHSS is considering the addition of Information Systems Technology (IST) areas at three technical high schools in the district due to the need for expanding the Tech Talent Pipeline in Connecticut to support the changing employment needs of current and future employers. He cautioned; however, there is may be some fiscal constraints.

Assistant Superintendent Wihbey introduced Mr. Don Mason, CTHSS Education Consultant to the Committee members who provided the rationale behind this expansion which included Department of Labor statistics, careers and opportunities. Mr. Mason walked the Committee members through each of the schools under consideration for expansion as follows:

Windham Tech: The recommendation for IST at Windham stems from the ongoing closure of the Electronics CTE area, currently in its second year of phase-out. As a result, there are no Information Cluster CTE areas offered at Windham, and the only other IST program in all of Region 4 is at Grasso Tech. Creation of the IST shop is to be done by student workforce production work, particularly by students in the Architecture, Electrical and Carpentry departments. Furniture is on-site from a previous location in the school. The primary cost for IST program would be in equipment.

Emmett O'Brien: The recommendation for IST at Emmett O'Brien, comes from the DOL labor projections and the DECD Tech Talent pipeline initiatives in Connecticut and Fairfield County. Ansonia is on the edge of Fairfield County, where growth in IT hiring is expected to expand as major Tech firms compete for the limited number of Computer Science graduates from Colleges and Universities in Connecticut. By expanding the number of IST programs in the CTHSS, coupled with our increased number of articulated agreements with Connecticut State University System and Community Colleges, we hope to expand the number of qualified people ready to fill positions in this area.

Eli Whitney: The recommendation for IST at Eli Whitney is driven by the diverse student population at Whitney and need for growing diversity in the Tech field. Median income for and IT worker is more than double the household income for African Americans and almost double the household income for Hispanics. Latinos and African-Americans. Per the USEEOC report on Diversity in Tech, white males make up 64% of the High Tech workforce in the USA. Adding IST to Eli Whitney provides an opportunity to engage students who are traditionally under-represented in the Tech field.

Questions/Discussion included: The Committee members agreed on how important this technology is and also pointed out that Commissioner Smith has mentioned this several times at meetings.

The Committee members felt that the CTHSS should move forward with the IST expansion but also be contingent upon the constraints of the budget. It was recommended that a proposal be brought to the full Board at their May 16, 2017 meeting for consideration providing four option scenarios including costs for each option.

A copy of report entitled “Rationale for Information Systems Technology CTE Expansion in the CTHSS” is included in the official file of this meeting.

B. The New Vinal Technical High School Construction – BI-RT-881 Discussion of Proposed Programs

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).

Assistant Superintendent Wihbey shared that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Construction Services (DCS) Division are becoming very heavily involved in the school renovation process and want very concise justification with respect to programming moving forward with building schools to enrollment size. Mr. Wihbey added that the CTHSS is currently in negotiations with DAS as to the number of shops that they will allow at the new Vinal Tech.

The total estimated cost of Vinal Tech’s project is \$156,825,315. The project is estimated to go into construction in 2019 and expected to open in the fall of 2021. The CTHSS Education trade consultants have begun to meet about the trades that they would recommend for the new Vinal Technical High School upon its completion of its renovation cycle.

Mr. Wihbey introduced Mr. John Murphy, CTHSS Education Consultant who reviewed the proposed 10 career pathways for the new Vinal Technical High school with the Committee members as follows: Information Systems Technology, Culinary, Hairdressing & Cosmetology, Precision Machining, Automotive, Diesel & Heavy Equipment, e-Carpentry, e-Electrical, e-HVAC and e-Sustainable Architecture.

The presentation on the career and technical programs at Vinal THS opened with Mr. Murphy discussing Connecticut’s Workforce Investment Board areas and the CTHSS school locations, along with a map depicting the 10 technologies and six career cluster technologies that will occupy the new Vinal THS.

The renovations of Vinal THS provided another opportunity to work on taking a regional approach in determining the list of programs, for the new Vinal 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, Human Services, Information Technology and Transportation. Mr. Murphy provided an overview of each of the 10 proposed technologies. Mr. Murphy 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.

Discussion ensued amongst the Committee members and it was agreed the proposal be reviewed in more detail at the next CTHSS Board meeting.

A copy of the new Vinal Technical High School PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

C. New Proposed Criminal Justice Program at Vinal Technical High School

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Assistant Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey shared with the Committee members that the CTHSS is considering the addition of a newly proposed Criminal Justice Program at Vinal Technical High School effective September 2017.

Assistant Superintendent Wihbey introduced Dr. Nikitoula Menounos, Principal, Mr. John Woodmansee, CTHSS Education Consultant, and Ms. Mary Skelly, Education Consultant to the Committee members who walked the Committee members through the proposal of the new program including an overview of the trade, estimated annual openings, Department of Labor growth/employment demand statistics including occupational titles, career pathways, curriculum content, certifications students will receive, facility and staffing. They explained how this program will service the needs of Middletown and its surrounding communities in multiple ways and how it will meet the needs of the Criminal Justice industry and create a pathway to continue education at the college level (Middlesex CC) and how it will provide students experiences in an industry that has significant job growth. There are currently approximately 1,000 jobs a year annually.

In accordance with statutory requirements, CGS Section 10-95i(c), the Board shall consider new trade programs for the Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) and authorize new programs for a period of not more than five years; therefore, the CTHSS is requesting the Board's approval authorizes of the establishment of a Criminal Justice trade for the period September 2017 through June 2022.

Questions/discussion included: types of instructors who would teach the program, would there be enough space, the type of job specification, positive recruitment effect, how the program is ethics based—a great positive and very inexpensive to run.

It was recommended by the Committee members that a proposal be brought to the full Board at their May 16, 2017 meeting for their consideration.

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 June 9, 2017.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM

Prepared by:
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant