

**CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD**

**Minutes of Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy**

**39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

**August 22, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on August 22, 2017 at 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Keavney called the meeting to order at 12:00PM.

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, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Mischel, CTHSS Education Consultant

Bea Tinty, CTHSS Education Consultant

Laura Vega, CTHSS Education Consultant

Absent:

**II. Public Participation**

There was no public participation

**III. Consideration of Minutes of the May 12, 2017 and June 20, 2017 Meetings**

The Committee voted unanimously that the minutes of the May 12 and June 20, 2017 meetings be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

### A. Admissions Policy Review/English Learner (EL) Enrollment

Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultants Ms. Cynthia Mischel, Ms. Beatrice Tinty, and Dr. Laura Vega who presented a PowerPoint to the Committee members on the Admissions Policy Review and English Learners. Ms. Tinty began the presentation. For the students that the CTHSS is recruiting for, the assessment report has changed. At the recommendation of SDE Commissioner Dianna Wentzell, the CTHSS will be using the Smarter Balanced assessment from the sending schools instead of the STAR which is more supportive of diverse populations. Requested revisions to the admissions policy are as follows highlighted in bold:

#### II. Application Requirements – Ninth Grade

Each applicant must submit:

1. A transcript of previous and current grade; Points to be determined
2. **Most recent state assessment report; Points to be determined**
3. A record of previous and current year attendance; Points to be determined
4. A written statement by the applicant regarding **interest** in attending a technical high school; Points to be determined

Ms. Tinty shared that the CTHSS is in the process of improving recruitment of English Learners to ensure applicants are representative of the region being served.

Ms. Tinty also explained the role of the admissions advisory committee (AAC) in selecting a diverse class which includes EL students. Although the CTHSS invites a representative number of EL applicants to attend, they choose not to attend. The CTHSS is focusing their efforts to improve the number of EL students who decide to attend. The CTHSS currently has a diverse group of students but needs to work on finding out why EL students are not coming to the CTHSS. Ms. Mischel shared the strategies that will be implemented to improve the number of EL students who choose to attend a Technical High School.

Dr. Vega explained the supports the CTHSS utilizes for EL students. Students will remain in a bilingual program for 30 months (3 years). Dr. Vega explained that if after 30 months the students have still have not met the requirements of the state, they will transition to services provided to them until meeting passing exiting state requirements. Dr. Vega also explained the various services the CTHSS District provides to EL students. Dr. Vega shared with the Committee information about a new pilot writing initiative that will be launched at Norwich and Eli Whitney Technical High schools in connection with Science and two trades—hairdressing and culinary that will benefit all CTHSS students including EL students utilizing a digital web writing program called, “My Access”. During the five year pilot, the CTHSS will bring on board more schools.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion and shared ideas on recruiting. Ms. Mischel, Ms. Tinty, Mr. Wihbey and Dr. Vega responded to questions the committee members raised. Follow-up items included:

- Provide the Las Links data to the Board when it becomes available,
- Graduation retention rates for EL students,
- Survey EL students who were accepted but decided not to attend, and
- Better explain the number of state-wide special education students in comparison to the CTHSS (helpful to tell the story to other districts).

A copy of the Admissions Policy Review/English Learner Enrollment PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

## **B. Attendance Strategies**

Ms. Cynthia Mischel presented a PowerPoint to the Committee members on Attendance Strategies. Ms. Mischel explained in the past the CTHSS looked at students with un-excused absences. Now the schools will focus on chronically absent students. At the Committee's request, Ms. Mischel gave a more in-depth review of the chart/slide entitled "For Students with 18+ absences – counts of students affected by type of absence". Ms. Mischel presented strategies to address chronic absenteeism—the first step being to identify the correct data. Mr. Vinny Diana, CTHSS Education Consultant for the Data Unit created a decision tree to assist with keeping in new state compliance regulations in reporting this complex attendance data. Ms. Mischel also shared other attendance strategies including social worker google classroom, on line programs, and video linking students into the active classroom.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion regarding attendance and Ms. Mischel responded to questions the Committee members raised about attendance strategies.

A copy of the Attendance Strategies PowerPoint presentation is included in the official file of this meeting.

## **V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM

Prepared by:  
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant