

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

**Minutes of Meeting of Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
E.C. Goodwin THS, 735 Slater Road, New Britain, CT 06053
September 19, 2017**

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Subcommittee on Quality and Policy met on September 19, 2017 at E.C. Goodwin THS, 735 Slater Road, New Britain, CT

I. Call to Order

Ms. Keavney called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

Present: Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Quality and Policy
Robert J. Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
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
Vincent Diana, CTHSS Education Consultant
James Mindek, Bureau Chief
Cynthia Mischel, CTHSS Education Consultant
Bea Tinty, CTHSS Education Consultant
Laura Vega, CTHSS Education Consultant

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

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation

III. Consideration of Minutes of the August 22, 2017 Meeting

The Committee voted unanimously that the minutes of the August 22, 2017 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

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

A. Teacher Hiring Process

The Teacher Hiring Process agenda item has been tabled.

B. English Learner (EL) Follow-up

Interim Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey introduced CTHSS Education Consultants Ms. Cynthia Mischel, Ms. Beatrice Tinty, and Dr. Laura Vega to the Committee members who presented a PowerPoint on the actions the CTHSS has taken to increase the number of EL students who enroll in the CTHSS. The percentage of EL students enrolled in CTHSS as of 09/13/2017 was presented and compared with EL enrollment data at other magnet schools.

Since the August 22, 2017 Subcommittee meeting on Quality and Policy, a meeting was held with the Directors of Counseling, building administrators and EL Instructors to review the recruitment process and ensure that recruitment presentations include the supports available for EL students and students with learning needs. A brainstorming session followed and recommendations were made which are included in the PowerPoint presentation.

Questions/Discussion included: Committee members agreed that it would be a worthwhile effort to research the percentage of EL students in the sending towns where CTHSS schools are located to ensure that EL enrollment is representative of the regional community.

A copy of the PowerPoint presentation included in the official file of this meeting

C. SPED Data

Ms. Cynthia Mischel presented a PowerPoint presentation. The current enrollment data was shared related to Special Education Students including three year count per school. As of September 13, 2017, 9.8% of the student population is identified as Special Education. Currently, there is a wide variety of percentages in the district. Ms. Mischel explained ways the CTHSS can do a better job in recruiting special education students in those schools that have lower percentages. Ms. Mischel also shared enrollment data in the magnet schools and State of Connecticut for students with disabilities.

Discussion/Questions included: Transportation challenges and how transportation is currently affecting enrollment due to LEA funding difficulties. A review of the waiting list was also discussed.

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

Other

Enrollment Update

Ms. Mischel provided an update on the overall CTHSS enrollment by school and by demographics as of September 13, 2017. The enrollment has increased. The number of applicants decreased due to the hardship of having to take the assessment test.

D. School and District Scoreboard

Mr. Wihbey reviewed the CTHSS District Scoreboard report with the committee members. Mr. Vincent Diana, CTHSS Education Consultant, also joined the discussion. The data includes

demographics, discipline, attendance, testing/program scores, inventory, etc. The scoreboards are provided quarterly to all principals and are also used for the principal evaluations. Mr. Wihbey reviewed the indicators in detail with the Committee members

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the scoreboard report. Some of the discussion included: The CTHSS being close to needing a district chronic absenteeism plan and is in the process of putting a planning team in place at four schools. Physical education results were also discussed and a difference in the pass rate of females compared to males was identified as an area for improvement. Mr. Wihbey was asked to define the student learning objectives (SLO's). He explained that SLO's are mandated by the State of Connecticut and that a metric be created for teacher and principal evaluations. The ALEKS data is part of these evaluations. Currently, there is a committee who meets with Mr. Pitsas, the Mathematics Education Consultant, who will put together an action plan for those schools in need. There was discussion on the methods of evaluating measures of student success both in the ALEKS program, which uses a mastery based learning approach, and also the STAR Reading program based on grade equivalent growth.

Mr. Wihbey commended Mr. Diana on a job well done producing the report.

A copy of the school and district scoreboard is included in the official file of this meeting.

The Committee members thanked everyone for sharing this valuable information.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM

Prepared by:
Diane Curtis, Administrative Assistant