

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Minutes of the November 14, 2017 Meeting of the of the Sub Committee on Outreach and Finance

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board Committee on Outreach and Finance met on November 14, 2017 at Bullard Havens Technical High School, 500 Palisade Avenue, Bridgeport, CT.

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

Present: Commissioner Scott Jackson, Chairperson of the Outreach and Finance Committee
Robert Trefry, Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
Patricia Keavney, Vice-Chairperson of the CTHSS Board
James Chasse, CTHSS Education Consultant
Jeffrey Wihbey, Interim Superintendent of the CTHSS
Commissioner Catherine Smith, Committee Member
Gina Chiarella, Committee Member
Andrea Comer, Committee Member
Mr. Fitz Walker, Committee Member

Absent:

II. Oath of Office

Mr. Trefry welcomed Ms. Andrea Comer, a new Board member of the Connecticut Technical High School System Board and thanked her for her willingness to serve. Ms. Comer is the Vice President of Workforce Strategies, Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA), Education and Workforce Partnership.

Attorney Beatrice Tinty administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Andrea Comer.

III. Public Participation

There was no public participation

IV. Consideration of Minutes of the September 19, 2017 and October 17, 2017 Meetings

Consideration of Minutes of the September 19, 2017

Commissioner Smith moved, Ms. Keavney seconded that the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor:	Chiarella, Keavney-Maruca, Trefry, Jackson, Smith, Walker
Opposed:	0
Abstained:	Comer
Absent:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes of the October 17, 2017

Commissioner Smith moved, Ms. Keavney seconded that the minutes of the October 17, 2017 meeting be approved.

Vote: In Favor: Chiarella, Keavney-Maruca, Trefry, Jackson, Smith, Walker
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Comer
Absent: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical High School System

A. Expenditure & Revenue Report

Mr. Chasse provided an update on the latest information impacting the district’s operating budget for fiscal year 2017-18. While the State of Connecticut has enacted an operating and capital budget for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19, there are additional reductions pending allocation by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM). Until such time as the individual agency reductions are determined, the district cannot finalize its operating budget for the current fiscal year which ends of June 30, 2018.

Mr. Chasse summarized the temporary operating budget by primary cost center. The payroll budget of approximately (\$132MM) includes funding for full-time (\$113.9MM), part-time (\$15.4MM) and other payroll costs (i.e. separation costs, overtime and longevity) of \$2.9MM. It also reflects project savings from state furlough days and delayed refill of vacancies. Given the temporary nature of the Resource Allocation Plan, each school has been allocated \$100,000 to continue the procurement of critical and essential supplies and services.

Mr. Chasse provided a break-down by school of the 2017-18 fiscal year school-based budgets. He also provided a vacancy analysis and that he district’s vacancy count is very fluid given the lack of a state budget coupled with the recently completed SEBAC and state employee collective bargaining contract negotiations. As the district currently expects to fill 1,527 of its 1,592 legislatively-authorized full-time general fund positions, the current vacancy rate is approximately 9.6%.

Mr. Chasse also gave a capital budget update. Included in the new state budget for fiscal years 2017-18 and 2018-19 is a **net reduction in capital funding of \$11MM** – our fiscal year 2014 authorization of \$15.5MM was reduced to \$4.5MM.

As a result of this reduction, the total amount of bonding available (subject to OPM and Bond Commission approval) is approximately \$13.2MM. If approved, these funds will be used for the replacement of retired student transportation vehicles (STVs), trade, academic, and technology equipment and to remediate infrastructure issues across the district.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the report. At the request of the Committee, Superintendent Wihbey and Mr. Wihbey spoke to the Committee members about the capital side of the budget and the impact of the \$11.M reduction. Reduction will result in the delayed purchases of new technology, and trade and academic equipment purchases. The district may also be negatively impacted by the state's implementation of the bonding cap.

Mr. Mindek spoke to the Committee members about the IT Revitalization Funding. The CTHSS is in the process of submitting an application for these funds and is currently looking at operational efficiencies. Mr. Mindek will be presenting a technology analysis at the next board meeting.

Interim Superintendent Wihbey continues to work with agency leaders regarding the transition of SDE staff to the central office.

A copy of the Expenditure & Revenue Report included in the official file of this meeting.

A. CTHSS Report of Expenditures by School Results (2016-17)

Section 10-99g (b) of the C.G. S., requires the Superintendent of the Technical High School System to semiannually submit the operating budget and expenses for each technical high school, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the director of the legislative Office of Fiscal Analysis and to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education.

Mr. Chasse presented to the Committee the Report for the 2016-17 school-year and discussed the expenditure sheet included with the report. The total expenses for the 2016-17 school-year were approximately \$262 Million and included the following funding sources: state general fund, fringe benefit costs, state grants, state bond funds, federal and private grant funds and internal funds from adult education food service and educational production work.

A copy of the CTHSS Report of Expenditures by School (2016-17) will be transmitted to the general assembly as required by C.G.S. 10-99g (b) and a copy is included in the official file of this meeting.

The Committee members engaged in a discussion about the report as follows:

A request was made to provide additional details on how school allotments are determined. A follow up report will be provided at the next board meeting.

Additional discussions took place regarding the district's ability to accept gifts and donations.

A concern was raised regarding the district's policy on production work revenue. 100% of the revenue generated by the trade program is allocated back to that trade program in the following school year.

A concern was raised regarding the district inability to track graduates. Commissioner Jackson believes that the district may have a better opportunity through the P20 WIN Collaborative to track its graduates.

Commissioner Smith inquired as to the district's current student recruitment activities.

Mr. Wihbey discussed the results of his initial meeting with Maura Dunn, VP HR & Administration General Dynamics Electric Boat. He hopes that Ms. Dunn will attend a future CTHSS Board meeting to make a presentation regarding her company's need for highly qualified workers (60,000 or more) across various disciplines including manufacturing welding and plumbing. If Connecticut fails to provide a trained workforce, these jobs will be lost to other states that are willing to make the investment in renovated schools/training centers and equipment.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Prepared by: *Alare Curtis*

Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System