

# CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD

## Minutes of the December 12, 2017 Meeting of the of the Sub Committee on Outreach and Finance

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board Committee on Outreach and Finance met on December 12, 2017 at Vinal Technical High School, 60 Daniels Street, Middletown, CT

### I. Call to Order

Commissioner Jackson called the meeting to order at 11:10AM.

Present: Commissioner Scott Jackson, Chairperson of the Outreach and Finance Committee  
Robert Trefry, Chairperson of the CTECS Board  
Patricia Keavney, Vice-Chairperson of the CTECS Board  
James Chasse, CTECS Education Consultant  
Jeffrey Wihbey, Interim Superintendent of the CTECS  
Commissioner Catherine Smith, Committee Member  
Gina Chiarella, Committee Member  
Mr. Fitz Walker, Committee Member  
James Mindek, Bureau Chief  
Mr. Joseph Uccello, Management Analyst III

Absent: Andrea Comer, Committee Member

### II. Public Participation

There was no public participation. Association

### III. Consideration of Minutes of the November 14, 2017 Meeting

Commissioner Jackson moved, Commissioner Smith seconded that the minutes of the November 14, 2017 meeting be approved.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### IV. Strategic Planning for the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System

#### A. Expenditure & Revenue Report

Mr. Chasse provided an update on the district's operating and capital budget for fiscal year 2017-18.

As the State of Connecticut continues to experience projected revenue shortfalls in its fiscal year 2017-18 budget, the administration took action on November 17, 2017 to reduce state agency budgets by approximately 4.5% by implementing additional holdbacks. For the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System, the new holdbacks total approximately \$6.7MM.

If the district, were to refill 100% refill of its identified vacancies by January 19, 2018, a projected deficit of approximately \$2.6 million would result. If the district were to delay refill of its non-instructional vacancies until July 2018 at the earliest, savings of approximately \$700,000 could be achieved. The district continues to prioritize its vacancies, pursue opportunities to further reduce school and central office operating costs and review opportunities to shift operating costs to other funding sources.

Mr. Chasse also gave a capital budget update. The State Bond Commission held a Special Meeting on November 29, 2017. The agenda included the approval of an allocation of \$1,646,819 to award a construction contract for paving, site improvements and a new maintenance building at Bristol Technical Education Center.

As a result of this approval, the total amount of unauthorized bonding (subject to OPM and Bond Commission approval) is approximately \$11.6MM. If approved, these funds would 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 further discussion about the state budget deficit.

Commissioner Jackson is recommending the creation of a narrative detailing the impact of the holdback on the district. Upon creation of this document, a meeting should be requested with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) for further discussion.

Commissioner Jackson recommended that any proposals to the IT Capital Investment fund be identified early because the process takes time and if given enough lead time, the funding received could be a valuable tool to the CTECS and what it means to students as they transition into the workplace.

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

## **B. Pell Grant Update**

Interim Superintendent Wihbey introduced Mr. Joseph Uccello, Management Analyst III to the Committee members. Mr. Uccello has been instrumental in the reinstatement of Pell grants to the district. Mr. Uccello shared some background information in his areas of experience and provided an overview of the Pell Grant process for Bristol Technical Education Center, Stratford School for Aviation and CT Aero Tech including tuition, total Pell Grant awards for 2017-18, and the number of students anticipated to apply.

Mr. Uccello responded to questions the Board members raised about the Pell Grants. The Committee members congratulated Mr. Uccello and his team in getting the Pell Grants reinstated retro actively to September, 2017 for the Stratford and Aero Tech Aviation Schools and Bristol TEC.

In light of the Pell grant news, the Board is requesting that Interim Superintendent Wihbey and staff take another look at adult education programming and tuition rates.

A copy of the Pell Grant Overview report is included in the official file of this meeting.

**Other**

Commissioner Jackson reported on good press from the Hartford Business Journal. The New Haven Manufacturing Association (NHMA) pushed out a survey to members and came back with some interesting results including that manufacturers are happy with their employees who came through the CTECS and seek graduates of the CTECS specifically in the manufacturing industry. The Committee members endorsed the idea of having NHMA present to the Board at a future meeting.

Commissioner will forward the article to Interim Superintendent Wihbey.

**V. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10

Prepared by: *Alane Curtis*

Administrative Assistant  
Connecticut Technical Education and Career System