

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting
November 14, 2007

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on November 14, 2007, at W. F. Kaynor Technical High School.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman
Dr. Alice Carolan
Beverly Bobroske
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
SDE Staff Present: Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent
W.F. Kaynor Staff: Robert Axon, Principal

Committee members and Kaynor students had a brief discussion about their chosen trade and why they chose to attend Kaynor. Chairman Coolican thanked the students for sharing their thoughts and invited them back to attend the luncheon.

Chairman Coolican called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- II. Executive Session. None
- III. Consideration of Minutes of the October 10, 2007 Connecticut Technical High School Committee Meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- IV. Public Participation: None
- V. Consent Agenda: No consent agenda was provided for the Committee's consideration.
- VI. Item Requiring Action:

a.) Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2009-2013

A discussion was held on the Rolling Capital Report. Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked what the process is to get additional funds for the renovations. Dr. Hughes said requests for additional school construction funding are processed electronically through the Department's Division of Grants Management and are included in the department's priority school construction list which is submitted annually to the legislature for consideration. Upon legislative approval, the department requests the allocation of school construction funds through the State Bond Commission. Mrs. Bobroske expressed concern about the cost increase from the initial contract quotes and feels there should be a committee to oversee contract overruns. Dr. Hughes said although the projects were approved in 2002, due to delays beyond our control, material prices increase and therefore, the costs go up.

Mr. Coolican moved, Mrs. Bobrosky seconded, that the Committee approves the 2009-2013 Capital Equipment Plan.

VOTE:	In Favor:	Coolican, Bobroske, Hopkins-Staten, Carolan
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

- VII. Items for Discussion
 - a.) Strategic School Profile 2006-2007
Mr. Coolican noted that the data is already a year old with no dramatic change in the reduced/free lunches. Discussion involved data that shows students working more than 16 hours per week. Mr. Coolican feels that after school work can be very beneficial.

b.) Trade Offerings

Dr. Carolan asked how many students were needed to determine the continuation or cancellation of a trade. Dr. Hughes replied that the CTHSS is not obligated to offer courses for less than 7 students; this can be based on exploratory and student choice. Mrs. Bobroske asked how many students enroll as freshmen and how many stay with their trade and graduate? Dr. Hughes stated that many students do not stay in their trade area and that the system is addressing this by holding the schools accountable and have given the principals a retention objective. Mr. Axon indicated that at Kaynor, they do not have as many problems with retention due to the number of applications received, and as many as 98% of students get their first trade choice.

c.) A.P. Courses

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten feels we need to be responsive to student requests for advanced placement courses. A discussion followed and committee members feel that students do not realize the challenge AP courses present; and though we cannot neglect the students who want more challenge, we must help the remedial students as well. Dr. Hughes said CTHSS offers Tech Prep and have articulated agreements with several colleges. Dr. Carolan said the tech schools were designed to encourage students to go into a technical trade, and that we need to remember our purpose.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

The principal and assistant principal monthly meetings have two consistent initiatives: they have been given an opportunity to share BEST practices and are receiving training in Data Driven Decision Making.

IX. Other Matters

Mr. Axon said Kaynor is one of the first schools to implement a five period-per-day lab program and is also one of the first to require school uniforms. A discussion followed regarding Capturing Kids Hearts in which 100% of Kaynor staff have been trained. Mr. Axon said they try to practice daily use of: sharing personal stories; hand shake, meet/greet; good news; to encouraging a positive environment in which students can feel comfortable and make a connection. Mr. Axon then went on to explain our recruiting program to the committee and noted that the construction has helped to generate interest in the school. Dr. Carolan commented how impressed she was with Kaynor's graduation. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten said Kaynor should be acknowledged in some way for their efforts and success.

X. Public Participation – None

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Committee members toured the school.