

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting
July 22, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on July 22, 2008 at Northeast Utilities, Berlin.

I. Chairman Coolican called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman
Mrs. Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Mrs. Beverly Bobroske

SDE Staff Present Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent
Dr. Anne P. Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

II. Consideration of Minutes of the May 14, 2008 Connecticut Technical High School Committee Meeting
The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Public Participation

Mr. Jack Conklin, President, Stamford Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the Early College model.

IV. Consent Agenda - None

V. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action:

a. Proposed School Name Change

A discussion was held on renaming the Aviation Maintenance Technician Program to the Connecticut Aero Tech School which will be relocated to Brainard Airport in Hartford and under the jurisdiction of Howell Cheney Technical High School.

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Ms. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the committee approve the school name change.

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

VI. Items for Discussion

a. J.M. Wright Technical High School

Committee members discussed the proposed partnership with Wright Tech and Norwalk Community College. Mr. Coolican raised a number of concerns about the proposed model and recognized that the preferred Bristol Tech model would not be accepted by the local community in Stamford. Ms. Hopkins-Staten expressed the need for a comprehensive plan including timelines, costs, a marketing plan coupled with a strong recruitment plan, building and equipment needs, staffing needs, etc. She also suggested that an ad hoc committee be created that would help with the development and implementation of the new model. Ray Mencio, construction consultant, provided an explanation as to the nature of the Facilities Management proposed new shop for Wright Tech. Mrs. Bobroske stated the school needs a whole new image including a new name.

The Committee passed a motion to recommend the Early College Model for Wright Tech to the full State Board of Education meeting in August or September.

Mrs. Bobroske moved, Mrs. Hopkins-Staten seconded, that the committee approve the Early College Model for Wright Tech.

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

VII. Report of the Superintendent

VIII. Other Matters

- a. Safety plans at CTHSS – Mrs. Hopkins-Staten raised concerns about safety in the shops and how that is being addressed. Dr. Hughes explained that students are trained each year and given a safety test that each student has to pass with 100 percent accuracy. Ongoing review of safety occurs each trimester with all students and is enforced on a daily basis.
- b. Future updates – Mrs. Bobroske asked that committee members be updated each month on previous issues or concerns.

IX. Public Participation

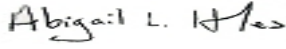
Mr. Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers, spoke in favor of the Early College model. He noted the attendance of Superintendent Joshua Starr at the planning meeting was positive. He suggested an oversight committee as the new model develops.

X. Executive Session

The Board unanimously voted to move into executive session at 11:11 a.m. for the purpose of discussing Wright Tech issues. Present at executive session were Committee members: Mr. Coolican, Mrs. Bobroske and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten. Also present was Dr. Hughes, Superintendent and Dr. Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent.

The Committee reconvened in public session at 11:20 a.m. Present were Mrs. Bobroske, Mr. Coolican and Mrs. Hopkins-Staten.

By unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Prepared by: 
Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent

Minutes approved at the October 27, 2008 meeting