

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting
September 12, 2007

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on September 12, 2007, at J. M. Wright Technical High School.

- I. Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman
Dr. Alice Carolan
Mrs. Beverly Bobroske
- SDE Staff Present: Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent
Ms. Kimberly Traverso, Recruitment Consultant
Ms. Barbara St. Onge, Education Consultant
- J. M. Wright Staff Mr. Sidney Abramowitz, Principal
Wright Tech Instructional Leadership Team
(WILT)

Chairperson Coolican called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

- II. Executive Session. None

- III. Consideration of Minutes of the May 9, 2007 Connecticut Technical High School Committee Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Mrs. Bobroske, and Dr. Carolan seconded approval of the Committee minutes of the May 9, 2007 meeting.

- IV. Public Participation - None

- V. Consent Agenda. No consent agenda was provided for the Committee's consideration.

- VI. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action - None

- VII. Items for Discussion

a) Reconstitution: J.M. Wright Technical High School

Mr. Sidney Abramowitz and his staff presented to the Committee members their 5-year transition plan to reconstitute J. M. Wright Tech. The proposed plan will transition J.M. Wright from a traditional 9-12 technical high school to a Technical Career Academy servicing grades 11, 12 and post-graduate students. The proposed plan includes specific steps and recommendations for implementation (recruitment, staffing, and marketing). Mrs. Bobroske stated that the SBE has limited funds which come from OPM. Mr. Coolican stated that at this point more information is needed. A decision will be made with State Board of Education members and administrators. The proposed plan is on file at the CTHSS central office.

b) CTHSS Graduation Ceremonies: Standards and Expectations

At the request of Mrs. Bobroske, a discussion was held on graduation ceremonies at the Connecticut Technical High Schools. Members expressed their experiences at graduation ceremonies. While some were charming, there were concerns with others. Dr. Hughes stated that she will have the Principals from Bullard-Havens and Kaynor Tech, who each had a superb graduation ceremony, share with administrators at one of their monthly meetings, how they go about preparing for their ceremonies. She handed out to the member's graduation guidelines she shared with her administrators on May 29, 2007 in preparation of the graduation ceremonies. Mrs. Bobroske stated that it is the job of the administrators and SBE to instruct students on how to behave and to understand what the graduation ceremony signifies. She offered to speak to the Principals.

c) CTHSS Committee Meeting Proposed Locations

Upon motion duly made by Dr. Carolan, and Mrs. Bobroske seconded approval of the CTHSS Committee Meeting Proposed Locations for the 2007-08 school year.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent – Dr. Hughes stated that she made a verbal presentation on the opening of the technical high schools to the State Board of Education members at their September 5, 2007 meeting.

IX. Other Matters

X. Public Participation

The following participated in Public Participation:

1. Al Sanseverino, Chair, Citizens Advisory Board
2. Frank Macchio, President, DeSal Electrical Contractors, Inc.
3. Jack Condlin, President, Stamford Chamber of Commerce
4. Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers
5. Trevor Jones, J. M. Wright Technical High School
6. Gail Howard, Norwalk Community College
7. John Bruno, President, Administrators Union

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Committee members toured the school.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rivera, CTHSS