

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Special Meeting

Minutes of Meeting
February 4, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, The Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on February 4, 2008, for a special meeting at the State Capitol, Office of the Lt. Governor Michael Fedele.

I. Chairman Coolican called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman Dr. Alice Carolan Ms. Theresa Hopkins-Staten Mrs. Beverly Bobroske
SDE Staff Present:	Mr. Allan Taylor Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent Dr. Anne P. Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

Chairperson Coolican said that Lt. Governor Michael Fedele had requested a meeting with the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education and interested parties, to discuss the future plans for addressing the low enrollment at J. M. Wright Technical High School. He presented the historical commentary of J. M. Wright's declining enrollment as it related to District Goal 5 (capacity goal), along with a review of interventions, data trends and resources provided to support the school and its efforts to increase student enrollment and retention. Mr. Coolican reviewed the target enrollment figures projected over the next five years, with corresponding trade/technology program expansion. This information was prepared to educate the business and educational community and interest groups in Fairfield county in order to garner support for Wright Tech. Further, Mr. Coolican reminded the Committee of the agreement to meet with the Stamford delegation (legislators and Lt. Governor) in April 2008 to review recruitment efforts thus far and revisit the future of J. M. Wright.

Discussion ensued concerning the role of the Committee during the meeting in the Lt. Governor's office. The Committee decided to use this opportunity to educate the audience regarding the issues and possibilities based on data.

The meeting was recessed at 12:43 p.m. in order to move to the Lt. Governor's office for a 1:00 p.m. meeting.

The meeting was reconvened by Mr. Coolican at 1:15 p.m. at the Lt. Governor's office. The Lt. Governor introduced members of the audience, including Stamford legislators. Approximately 25 were in attendance.

Mr. Coolican presented the statute requirements when a technical school's enrollment fell below 70% capacity, history of J. M. Wright as it related to enrollment and retention of students in Fairfield County emphasizing that the goal of the Committee was to make J. M. Wright a viable option for students and businesses in Fairfield County.

Discussion ensued relative to clarification of data and proposed recruitment timelines. Dr. Hughes responded to questions and provided clarification as it related to district interventions and support. Some participants, especially Stamford legislators, wanted to pursue options other than the proposed dual enrollment model, though no specific were provided other than continuing with the present model and increasing recruitment strategies. Norwalk Community College President offered resource support.

The Lt. Governor requested that:

- Dr. Hughes routinely inform the Lt. Governor's office of recruitment results and that a committee be formed under the leadership of the President of Norwalk Community College to explore other options for recreating J. M. Wright Technical High School. Committee members will include representation from the Superintendent's office, as well as the legislative delegation, Jack Conlin and alumni.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p. m.

Minutes approved at the April 9, 2008 meeting.