

III.

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
September 9, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on September 9, 2009, at the Connecticut Technical High School System ("CTHSS"), Central Office in Middletown.

Committee Members Present: Mrs. Beverly Bobroske, Chair
Ms. Theresa Hopkins-Staton
Ms. Linda McMahon – via telephone

State Department of Education
and CTHSS Staff Present: Mark K. McQuillan, Commissioner of Education
Ms. Patricia A. Ciccone, Interim Superintendent
Mr. Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant
Pamela Bergin, SDE Office
Ed Leavy, State Vocational Federation of Teachers
Nikitoula Menounos, American Federation of School
Administrators

I. Chairperson Bobroske called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Executive Session - None

III. Consideration of Minutes of the August 11, 2009, CTHS Committee Meeting

The minutes were approved, as amended by Mrs. Bobroske.

IV. Public Participation – None

V. Consent Agenda – No items

VI. Items Requiring Action

a) CTHS Committee Meeting Schedule for 2009-2010

The Committee agreed on the proposed meeting schedule for 2009-2010. However, Mrs. Bobroske asked Ms. Ciccone to try to substitute one of the schools with Wilcox Tech located in Meriden.

VII. Items for Discussion

a. CTHSS Inventory Update

Mr. Chasse gave an update on the inventory process at the technical high schools. The inventory committee is comprised of CTHSS administrators, principals, business managers, teachers and administrators union and central office staff. The purpose of the committee is to review the agency equipment inventory procedures; to identify

operational weaknesses/issues in the inventory process; to develop and implement recommendations for resolution of these weaknesses/issues; and to develop a process for completing a biannual inventory. Mr. Chasse delineated the roles the schools' play in order to ensure that every piece of equipment is properly inventoried and person(s) responsible are held accountable. The Hartford office is working to change the inventory process from paper to electronic monitoring. A discussion ensued regarding the inventory process.

b. J. M. Wright Tech Update

Ms. Ciccone gave a brief update on the phase process the CTHSS is conducting for the two-year suspension of Wright Tech and its facility. The update included the transfer of student records and the availability of the records to parents; a walk-through of the facility; a detailed inventory of any and all materials contained in the building; the use of electricity and water to supply the stadium for use by the City of Stamford; prevention of vandalism and security at the school; and what textbooks, equipment and other resources can be used at other tech schools. A discussion was held on leasing space at the facility and reopening the school in a different way.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten suggested forming an adhoc committee or task force to review, in detail, all possible options concerning the future of J.M. Wright, and to make recommendations to the State Board of Education ("SBE") for its consideration. Ms. Hopkins-Staten complemented Ms. Ciccone and her team on the smooth transition at Wright Tech, and how well she has kept the Committee apprised of the developments.

Mrs. Bobroske then expressed a desire to see the school reopen, with a futuristic focus aligned with the needs of southern Connecticut. She further stated that Commissioner McQuillan should lead the effort to establish an ad hoc committee, with representation from all key stakeholder groups.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

a) Student Information Update PowerSchool

Ms. Ciccone stated that the CTHSS began the 2009-10 school year with the implementation of PowerSchool. Master schedules and course codes were redesigned and course catalogs were edited to reflect the changes. Teachers, administrators and school and central office staff have been trained. Mrs. Bobroske commended the one page summary, prepared by the Data Unit.

b) CTHSS Enrollment

Ms. Ciccone shared the enrollment data as of September 1, 2009 with the committee. Members asked that future data show the previous and present years for comparison and also include the town the school is in.

c) Staffing to Date

Ms. Ciccone gave a brief update on staffing which included 79 positions refilled with fewer than 12 positions remaining to refill. The CTHSS is unable to post any refill positions for maintainers, head cooks and building supervisors at this time while the

State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) agreement conditions are being met.

d) Admissions and Recruitment

Ms. Ciccone stated that there are no changes to the Policy for Admission in the CTHSS. The CTHSS is making some adjustments under Sheff trying to bring in more students due to the low number of students in the program. The Committee agreed this is an opportune time to update the policy, including making the membership of the advisory council transparent, specifically, as it relates to composition, selection, term of service and purpose.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten questioned the fact that “successful completion is defined as a grade of D- (60) or higher.” She said a D in a trade should not be viewed as a passing grade and that this policy had been discussed and was revised at a prior Committee meeting. Ms. Ciccone agreed to research what had been previously approved by the Committee.

IX. Other Matters

Mrs. Bobroske stated Committee members would like to be made aware of any incidents prior to them hitting the papers and that Bristol Tech remains open due to the strong support of students, business leaders, parents and positive press coverage.

X. Public Participation - None

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Elizabeth Rivera

Minutes approved at the October 14, 2009 Meeting