

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM BOARD
Hartford, CT

Minutes
Full Board
January 18, 2023

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (hereafter “Board”) met on January 18, 2023, at 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca

- Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Present: Patricia Keavney-Maruca, Chairperson
George Anderson, Board Member
Jeff Aucker, Board Member
Christine Benz, Board Member
Todd Berch, Board Member
Jim Gildea, Board Member
Lance Hall, Board Member
Paul Lavoie, Board Member
Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Board Member
Karen Wosczyzna-Birch

Absent: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Board Member

Chairperson Patricia Keavney-Maruca welcomed Board members and lead the pledge of allegiance.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Trade Programming Spotlight

- Norwich Technical High School Application Day
with General Dynamics Electric Boat

Ms. Krys Konow
Ms. Amanda Pearson

Ms. Krys Konow and Ms. Amanda Pearson introduced themselves as well as two senior students from Norwich Technical High School, John Green & Sharelle Riley. Ms. Krys Konow gave a brief

overview that they have been working closely with both Willie Barber, the Youth Lead in Workforce Development and Electric Boat since March of 2022 in relations to developing a partnership between Electric Boat and Norwich Technical High School. Electric Boat gave a very in-depth presentation to Norwich Technical High School seniors, which was a huge success. Trade supervisors came in and spoke to students on many topics, including trade internships. All four of the internships were fulfilled by students from Norwich Technical High School. Last year was focused on planning, with Norwich Technical High School and Electric Boat, which has been a wonderful team approach. While planning for Application Day, plans grew exponentially and a total of twenty-eight students walked away with job offers at the event.

John Green an HVAC senior at Norwich Technical High School shared that he really enjoyed the process and was one of the four students who were awarded an internship. He thought this opportunity should be offered to more students as he found it very beneficial. He was one of the twenty-eight students offered a job as a Pipe-Fitter and Sheetmetal worker as well.

Sharelle Riley a Carpentry senior at Norwich Technical High School shared that it was a very exciting opportunity and it was very motivational to have such industry leaders at their school. She continued to share that she was one of the twenty-eight students who were offered a job. She further shared she was offered the Semi-Skilled Painters position at an hourly rate of \$19.95, which she is able to start once she turns eighteen. She also stated she felt she had a leg up being in the trade, as well as already having her OSHA certification and everything else she may need in order to be successful in the workforce.

Ms. Amanda Pearson a guidance counselor at Norwich Technical High School shared that this event differed from previous ones, as past students had interviews over the phone or at Electric Boat. This year students were able to be with their peers and in a building that they felt comfortable in. Their peers cheered them on and it felt more like a community event, which further encouraged students in their confidences. Additionally, it was wonderful to see seventeen and eighteen-year old's speaking with people such as the Chief of Staff at Electric Boat, inquiring about things such as 401ks and benefits. After the massive success of the Application Day, Electric Boat has stated they were not only surprised by the students, that they want to take this type of event to other technical schools in the CTECS system.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. Berch asked both students about their participation in the SHIP Program (Summer Highschool Internship Program), one of the largest of its kind in Connecticut. He shared some information related to the program and some highlights with the two students.

Dr. Solek shared a comment that both formal and informal discussions have taken place with team members on the topic of moving forward in a more focused way, in terms of requiring careers, job opportunities and internships for CTECS students. It was mentioned that it may be of interest to the Board moving into the future to create a type of CTECS Career Center. This would be an opportunity to merge and work with our industry partners, as well as future potential partners.

Mr. Lavoie shared that he feels these talks are fantastic and the idea of having a CTECS Career Center.

Dr. Vallieres shared that she has the same sentiment relating to the idea.

Mr. Berch also stated he feels it is an excellent idea.

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca thanks the presenters from Norwich Technical High School for their presentation and that it is so exciting to see the impact these events are having on the students.

Mrs. Stallings continues to give thanks to the presenters from Norwich Technical High School and the high quality work the school is producing.

IV. Consideration of Minutes

Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca motioned, Mr. Todd Berch moved, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres seconded to approve the December 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

Vote: In Favor: Anderson, Aucker, Benz, Berch, Gildea, Hall, Lavoie, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Board Member

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

A. Outreach and Partnership Committee

Mr. Paul Lavoie

Mr. Lavoie shared that there was a great Outreach and Partnership meeting last week with Mr. Brent McCartney regarding taking a look at each trade and making sure they are constructed to the best of their abilities to meet the needs of those trade industries.

- CTECS Trade Reauthorization Process

Mr. Brent McCartney

Mr. Brent McCartney shares a PowerPoint presentation related to the CTECS Trade Reauthorization Process.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. McCartney proceeded to answer questions presented by Dr. Anderson and Dr. Vallieres.

Dr. Solek shares she feels similar sentiments to both Dr. Anderson and Dr. Vallieres. She again mentions the potential for the CTECS Career Center and the expansion it could offer to the

trades. She expanded on some of the concerns related to the being on top of either industry expansion or even new industries that may arise in the near future.

B. Policy Review Committee

Mr. Todd Berch

Mr. Berch shared that due to some scheduling issues the Policy Review Committee will have this month's report ready for the following Board meeting in February.

- Naming Facilities at Schools Draft

Dr. Ellen Solek

Ms. Susan Scott

- Pre-apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programming

Mr. Todd Berch

C. Finance and Facilities Committee

- CTECS Financial Report

Ms. Kisha Richardson

Mrs. Richardson shared the current Finance and Facilities Committee overview for the operating expenses.

Questions/Discussion included:

No questions were proposed.

VI. Report of the Executive Director

Dr. Ellen Solek

- Talent Development Report

Mr. Robert Sartoris

Dr. Solek shared that due to unforeseen circumstances Mr. Robert Sartoris the Talent Development Manager for CTECS was unable to attend this month's Board meeting. She gave a brief report on activities related to talent development, particularly leaning in towards the concept of innovation. Currently CTECS is working closely with the Minority Teacher Committee which is composed of approximately 30 of CTECS minority teachers and leaders in order to expand the recruitment of minority faculty and staff across the system. Additionally, building CTECS relationship with the community colleges throughout the state which would help bring back students into the CTECS system as beginning educators or educator interns in CTECS buildings going forward.

Questions/Discussion included:

Dr. Anderson thanked Dr. Solek for her overview and refers to the Minority Teachers Committee and the importance of recruitment of such individuals. He shared that he personally has always been impressed with the diversity of the CTECS staff and faculty. He stated that in the future it would be helpful to see any reports related to such topics happening in the CTECS system.

- Accountability/Performance Highlights in Academics

Dr. Nikitoula Menounos

Dr. Darcy Fiano

Ms. Aimee Correa

Dr. Menounos introduced both Dr. Darcy Fiano the Supervisor of Literacy and Humanities and Ms. Aimee Correa a Title 1 Supervisor to give an overview of where CTECS is as of today in terms of academic programming, focusing on PSAT, SAT data and the Next Generation Accountability Index issued by the state.

Dr. Fiano shared a PowerPoint presentation on some of the highlights of the district's performance. She shared with the Board information on many topics, including curriculum and professional learning.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mr. Gildea shared how impressed he is with the academic accomplishments of CTECS. He asked about the switch from past procedures related to going back and forth between academics and trade classroom time.

Dr. Fiano shared how testing and expectations for students have evolved over the years. She continued to share that industry leaders found that while students trade skills were great, that their aptitude testing left a bit to be desired when it came to it.

Dr. Solek commented that while CTECS is a trade-based and trade-focused system, CTECS also wants to make sure that academically the students meet the challenges and needs of the industries in which they want to enter upon graduation. Additionally, she shared that the team at CTECS is constantly working on innovative ways to expand academic offerings to CTECS students. She proceeded to thank Dr. Fiano for her fantastic report.

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca shared more information related to the task of bringing up the average academic levels of CTECS students. While some schools are testing lower than average, some are over-performing in academics. She asked if there is any further data that Dr. Fiano could provide on this topic.

Dr. Fiano shared that she can most certainly get that information to the Board in the future.

Dr. Benz asked if there was any information on the difference between the various schools when it comes to reaching the proficiency levels. Further more she asked what could be the reason for the difference in science proficiency and if there are similar numbers for proficiency in math in relation to ELA schools. She also asked for clarification on what is the participation rate for CTECS students who took the PSAT and SAT tests was.

Dr. Fiano clarified that she doesn't have that particular data at this time, but she believes it falls between 90-100%. She shared that it is taken during regular school hours which attributes to the high percentage verse having students taking it on their off time.

Ms. Correa continued with the presentation and shared some slides referencing some of CTECS priority schools. This includes A.I. Prince Tech., Eli Whitney Tech. and E.C. Goodwin Tech. She gave some great background on testing and CTECS response to the information collected from these schools.

Questions/Discussion included:

No questions were proposed, but Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca shared she felt this information was very encouraging to hear.

Mrs. Stallings gave praises to the presenters and thanked them for their collected presentation.

• Work Based Learning Report

Ms. Patricia King

Mrs. King shared a brief presentation on “Student Placement by Schools” and CTECS Work Based Learning program numbers. She commented that CTECS is getting a greater number of students out on Work Based Learning and that this is extremely encouraging moving forward. She only sees the numbers rising as we move into the Spring season.

Questions/Discussion included:

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca asked for clarification on the numbers at Bullard Havens Technical Highschool.

Mr. Gildea shared that he feels this is a great benefit of the CTECS Work Based Learning program. He continued to ask if there was data collected on which work places are on site verse off site.

Mrs. King shared that at this time CTECS doesn’t collect that information, but feels it would be beneficial to add to the reports moving forward.

Dr. Vallieres shared she feels this is really great and could tie into the possibility of creating the CTCES Career Center as previously mentioned by Dr. Solek.

Mrs. Stallings thanked Mrs. King for her presentation.

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca ended with a statement related to the focus schools being the ones with lower Work Based Learning participation and how important these types of reports are to the future of such programs.

VII. Report of the Chair

Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca apologized for being unable to attend a previous meeting, but commended Mrs. Stallings for representing the school system in her place. She further explained that she is continuing her inquiries into the stability of the system in terms of obtaining permanent leadership for both the Superintendent and Executive Director positions.

Questions/Discussion included:

Mrs. Stallings thanked Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca for entrusting her to represent the school system on her behalf and she continued to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year.

VIII. Adjourn

Chairperson Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca motioned, Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres moved, Mr. Jim Gildea seconded to adjourn the January 18, 2023 meeting.

Vote: In Favor: Anderson, Aucker, Benz, Berch, Gildea, Hall, Lavoie, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Charlene M. Russell-Tucker, Board Member

Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:38am.

Prepared by: Mr. Maxwell Waldorf, CTECS