



CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND CAREER SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Microsoft Teams

Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2025

Attendees

- Present** Dr. Christine Benz, Chairperson; Mr. Paul Lavoie, Vice Chair - Proxy for Comm. Daniel O'Keefe; Mr. Jeff Auker, Board Member; Mr. Shawn Coyne, Board Member; Mr. Keith Norton, Proxy for Comm. Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
- Not Present** Mr. Todd Berch, Proxy for Comm. Dante Bartolomeo; Mr. Jim Gildea, Board Member; Mr. Lance Hall, Board Member; Dr. Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Board Member; Dr. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch

AGENDA ITEM		DISCUSSION
I.	Call to Order	Board Chair, Dr. Benz called the meeting to order at 9:34am.
II.	Public Participation	There was no public participation.

III. **Introduction of New Superintendent and New Staff** CTECS Executive Director, Dr. Alice Pritchard introduced CTECS Superintendent, Mr. Michael E. Crocco and CTECS Legal Director, Mr. Michael Barrera.

IV. **Special Recognition: Expressing Our Sincere Thanks to Interim Superintendent Burr** CTECS Executive Director, Dr. Alice Pritchard thanked Mr. Freeman Burr for his service to CTECS staff and students.

V. **Recognition of the 2025 Principals and Teachers of the Year** The Board and CTECS Leadership recognized the district's outstanding Teachers of the Year at the meeting. Each Teacher of the Year was accompanied by their respective building leadership.

The following Teachers of the Year were honored:

Cleo Alberts	Caitlin Belanger	Jason Bouvier
Jousette Caraballo	Steve Donaghy	John Goldbeck
Christina Gramarossa	Patrice Granatosky	Polly Innerarity
Rebecca Marra	Angela Ocasio	Sean O'Connor
Kerri Rak	Sean Sarta	Chris Sullivan
Pete Szklarz	Lindsay Vanak	Kristoffer Wagner

VI. **Consideration of Minutes** Board Chair, Dr. Benz motioned, Board member Norton moved, and Board member Auker seconded approval of the April 30, 2025 Board meeting minutes.

Vote: In Favor: Benz, Lavoie, Auker, Coyne, Norton
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0
Absent: Berch, Gildea, Hall, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. **Report of the Executive Director**

A. Executive Director Update

CTECS Executive Director, Dr. Alice Pritchard presented the Executive Director Update Report to the Board.

B. Action Item: CTECS Healthy Food Certification (HFC) School Year 2025-26

CTECS Director of Food Services, Mr. Paul Lewis presented the CTECS 2025-2026 Healthy Food Certifications to the Board.

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Board Chair, Dr. Benz motioned, Board member Norton moved, and Board member Auker seconded the NO vote as presented.

Vote: In Favor:

Opposed: Benz, Lavoie, Auker, Coyne, Norton

Abstained: 0

Absent: Berch, Gildea, Hall, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Motion carried unanimously.

The Connecticut Technical Education and Career System Board will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Board Chair, Dr. Benz motioned, Board member Lavoie moved, and Board member Coyne seconded the YES vote as presented.

Vote: In Favor: Benz, Lavoie, Auker, Coyne, Norton

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Berch, Gildea, Hall, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Former Interim Superintendent Update

Former Interim Superintendent, Mr. Freeman Burr presented the Interim Superintendent Update Report to the Board.

VIII. Report of the Chair

A. Proposed 2025-2026 CTECS Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

Board Chair, Dr. Christine Benz presented the Proposed 2025-2026 Advisory Board Schedule.

IX. Adjourn

Board Chair, Dr Christine Benz motioned, Board member Lavoie moved, and Board member Auker seconded for the meeting to adjourn.

Vote: In Favor: Benz, Lavoie, Auker, Coyne, Norton

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Absent: Berch, Gildea, Hall, Vallieres, Wosczyzna-Birch

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:41am.

X. Tour

- **Robotics and Automation Demonstration: Showcasing Innovative Technology**

CTECS Consultant, Joseph Campbell led an exciting demonstration of innovative technology, highlighting advanced robotics within our district. The demonstration featured students from Norwich Tech, who showcased their remarkable skills by operating a robotic dog.

Transcribed by: Ronke Stallings, Chief of Staff, CTECS