

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
March 7, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on March 7, 2011, at the State Department of Education, Hartford, CT.

State Board of Education Members: Joseph Vrabely, Jr., Chair of the CT Committee
Allan Taylor
Patricia Luke
State Department of Education: George Coleman, Acting Commissioner
Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent
Office of Policy and Management: Secretary Benjamin Barnes

I. Chairperson Vrabely called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairperson Vrabely welcomed everyone. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to **better understand the rationale for the governor's proposal** concerning the transfer of the Connecticut Technical High Schools. He introduced Secretary Barnes and thanked him for taking the time to address the group and answer questions submitted by State Board of Education members and Acting Commissioner Coleman. A list of the questions can be found in the official file of this meeting.

Secretary Barnes stated that there is a major economic/budgetary shortfall in Connecticut and Governor Malloy is looking to consolidate and eliminate departments to **help reduce the state's budget deficit**. The proposed framework would be developed by the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education transitioning the schools over a period of years. The local school districts would be unharmed financially and will honor the commitment to employees.

Chairperson Vrabely asked if the business community were part of any discussions relating to the proposed move. Secretary Barnes stated no.

Mrs. Luke asked why Goodwin, Prince, Cheney and Vinal Technical High Schools (all Hartford area schools) were selected as the first to be transferred. She suggested creating a pilot project. Mrs. Luke also shared her concern with the state not financially supporting the technical high schools down the road. Secretary Barnes stated the decision on the first four schools was made based on the fact that the schools would be able to move more expeditiously due to the strength of the local school district and there were no on-going construction or the need of urgent repairs to the four schools.

He stated that there had not been a discussion on a pilot project but that it may make sense. Secretary Barnes stated that funding programs is a constant source of worry and looks to support the technical high school in a different way.

Ms. Ciccone spoke on behalf of the technical high schools students and staff. She asked Secretary Barnes if the Governor would entertain the idea of looking at data depicting the high quality performance of CTHSS students and have CTHSS staff be part of the discussions. Secretary Barnes stated the administration would be happy to listen.

Acting Commissioner Coleman asked if there is a plan that envisions the schools that are in need of repair to bring facility enhancement to those schools. Secretary Barnes stated yes; there would be some level of responsibility to address the physical plan and make a commitment to those investments.

Acting Commissioner Coleman asked if the existing central office staff will also be transferred to the new host community school districts, will state salaries support that effort and will collective bargaining relationships also be maintained and transferred? Secretary Barnes stated that there are lots of ways to resolve over time – one way to do it would be by the state authorizing by statute the local school district to carryout supervision and over time move to the local school district.

Mr. Taylor stated that the technical high schools function differently than the local school districts and would be hard to replicate and questioned whether the local school districts would be able to keep the tech benefits?

Secretary Barnes stated that he understands there is some apprehension, but it will be a collaborative effort and looks forward to working with everyone.

II. Public Participation – The following individuals participated in public participation. They voiced their concerns **and disapproval of the Governor’s proposal to transfer the** technical high schools. They also spoke as to why the technical high schools play an important part of their lives. Participants voiced their concern that Secretary Barnes was not available to stay for public participation. Their written testimonies can be found in the official file of this meeting.

1. David R. Poirier, Taxpayer
2. **Paul Angelucci, Trade Instructor/82’ Graduate**
3. Timothy Reagan, C.C.S.U.
4. Timothy Lane, Parent
5. Kate Bowman, Parent
6. Robert Skrip, Auto Body Association of Connecticut
7. Frank J. DaCato, Plumber – Pipefitter – Local 777
8. Charles Appleby, Appleby Plumbing and Heating Co.
9. Joe Palfini, Ray Jurgen, Inc.
10. Latisha Brathwenti, Former LPN Student
11. Julie Marzano, Teacher, CTHSS
12. Maryann Burr, Former LPN Student
13. Moneirh Malmasi, Former LPN Student

14. Joe Pellecchia, CT – PHCC
15. Kris Lorch, Alloy Engineering
16. Robert Klanko, (left blank)
17. Kathy Saint, Schwerdtle Stamp

III. Report of the Superintendent

Superintendent Ciccone stated that it has been over 20 years since the CTHSS has been studied. She suggested a task force be put in place to study the tech schools.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.