

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
April 13, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School **Committee (the "Committee") met on** April 13, 2011, at H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, Meriden, CT.

Committee Members Present: Joseph Vrabely, Jr., Chair
Theresa Hopkins-Staten
Charles Jaskiewicz
Patricia Keavney-Maruca

State Department of Education: Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent
Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent
Nivea Torres, Assistant Superintendent
James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant
Pamela Bergin, SDE Office
Bea Tinty, CTHSS Consultant
Barbara Mazzonna, CTHSS Consultant
Richard Cavallaro, Wilcox Tech Principal and
President, American Federation of School
Administrators
Justin Lowe, Assistant Principal, Wilcox Tech
Donna Witkin, Assistant Principal, Wilcox Tech
Theresa Calabrese, Wilcox Tech Student
Abraham Texidor, Wilcox Tech Student

State Vocational Federation of Teachers Jan Hochadel, Vice President

I. Chairperson Vrabely called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. Executive Session – None

III. Consideration of Minutes of December 8, 2010, CTHS Committee Meeting
Mrs. Hopkins-Stated moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the December 8, 2010 Connecticut Technical High School Committee.

Vote: In Favor: Vrabely, Hopkins-Staten, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried.

IV. Public Participation – None

V. Consent Agenda – None

VI. Items Requiring Action

a. CTHSS Tuition and Fees for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013

Mr. Chasse shared the following on the adult education tuition and fee schedule for:

- consideration of raising tuition in the technical school adult program
- full-time programs – no recommended increases
- adult programs that will run at a deficit without state funds

Part-Time Adult Education

- apprentice tuition increases
- programs needing more support or needing to receive additional state revenue

Mr. Jaskiewicz asked if there is parody between the increased costs of our state colleges/universities and the technical adult program?

Mrs. Hopkins-Staton moved, Mr. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Committee approve the CTHSS Tuition and Fees for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013.

Vote: In Favor: Vrabely, Hopkins-Staton, Jaskiewicz, Keavney-Maruca
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried.

b. Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan

- standardized equipment list
- cost of vehicles, i.e. rack bodies, busses
- percentage of our requested budget that is funded
- the number of busses in the technical school district
- bus uses for – production, sports, etc.

Mr. Jaskiewicz asked if we can combine regional partnership or sharing, i.e. consolidation of busses so they are full?

Chair Vrabely noted that he would be very discouraged if he submitted a budget in which he would only receive a percentage of the amount requested.

There was discussion on the renovation projects. Mrs. Hopkins-Staton asked how we can justify spending money on an empty school when schools that currently have students attending for example Eli Whitney need the funding. She asked that we:

- Stress the urgency for capital for students who are attending schools which are in need; and
- Prioritize a list of schools that need the funds

The Committee postponed voting on this item. The Superintendent and staff will identify what the priorities are (schools in need), the plan and resubmit to the CT Technical Committee.

- Healthy Food Certification for 2011-2012

Mr. Chasse shared the following on healthy food certification:

- 850,000 students receive free/reduced lunch and 250,000 students receive free/reduced breakfast.
- These programs are state funded
- Breakfast/Lunch Programs are not self sufficient
- **44% of the district's students are eligible for free/reduced meals**
- **Student's families can't afford** increases
- CTHSS is proposing no cost increase in lunch prices
- Cost of meals – Lunch \$3.00 Breakfast \$2.05
- \$250,000.00 - \$300,000.00 lost on lunch/breakfast programs yearly
- Compare state system to public school system
- **We don't generate enough yearly revenue to support the meal program**
- **We can't pass** the cost on to our students – families

- The privatization of the program has been suggested

The committee decided not to participate in the Healthy Food Certification for the 2011-12 school year due to cost. The committee will inform the full Board.

VII. Items for Discussion

a. Inventory Executive Summary

- new procedures have been put in place – all new purchases signed for, tagged and receiving reports sent to central office by our business offices
- electronic services are used
- disposal – teachers fill out forms to dispose of unwanted items – then approved by the property distribution center
- schools are now required to take physical inventory twice a year

b. Fiscal Report

- monthly requests are submitted
- repairs to buildings are monitored
- snow removal – not budgeted for, was a major issue this year

c. Admissions Update SY 2011-12 - Recruitment

Report on Admission Policy was distributed

- admission requirements have been modified slightly
- applicant pool and ranking was discussed
- concern of report – a little fall off from previous years in recruitment numbers

Mrs. Hopkins-Staten stated she was concerned about our attendance policy – do we take into **consideration the reason why the student’s attendance in middle schools is unsatisfactory?**

Superintendent Ciccone stated that no one criteria on our school application is given an automatic refusal. Applications are reviewed for additional information if needed and **90% of the applicant’s information is objective.**

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

- Commissioner visited our schools
- Consensus is we have proven this form of education is important
- A representative from the Technical School District should have one seat on the task force was discussed by the CT Committee
- Data/reports will be needed
- Concern with the number of retirements in the system impacting future cuts
- Two years ago when there were a large number of retirements we were only able to fill a percentage of those positions
- This year 470 people are eligible for retirement in entire State Department of Education

Proposed Budget Reductions were requested and recommendations were considered – examples of models explored included in this exercise.

2.5 million in savings - sports

Considering closing the aviation schools for the 2014 fiscal year

Savings associated with 72 vacancies in the system

Theresa Hopkins-Staten stated there is a need to understand the expenses incurred with closing or suspending a building.

Charles Jaskiewicz

OPM, along with someone from the commissioner's office should come to a meeting – it is unrealistic to assign a percentage of budget reductions to CTHSS. **Can't hold** a school district to a percentage of budget reductions.

Superintendent Ciccone noted that staff is already seriously depleted since the 2009 incentive.

Theresa Hopkins-Staten asked how much has been saved since 2009?

What is the magnitude of our 10% savings if realized?

Chair Vrabley asked how reduction would impact our budget overall.

Superintendent stated we are in jeopardy of losing unused grant money.

Rich Cavallaro suggested efforts to assure that the Technical High School system is ready to go for SY 2011-12. He hopes that the teachers are going to be here to accommodate all of the students that have received acceptance letters.

Superintendent Ciccone said we feel like we have lost the ability to operate a good system. If the students are in the schools, the positions need to be filled.

IX. Other Matters

X. Public Participation

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes approved at the May 18, 2011 meeting.