

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
November 16, 2011

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on November 16, 2011, at Grasso Technical High School, Groton, CT.

Committee Members Present:

Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr., Chair
Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Charles A. Jaskiewicz
Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent
Nivea Torres, Assistant Superintendent
Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent
James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant
Pamela Charland
Scott Zito, Principal
Ally Dole, Student
Jayne Morris, Student
Janis Hochadel, President
Ed Leavy

State Department of Education

Grasso Technical High School

State Vocational Federation of Teachers

I. Chairperson Vrabely called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Executive Session – None

III. Consideration of Minutes of October 19, 2011 CTHS Committee Meeting

Mr. Jaskiewicz moved, Mrs. Keavney-Maruca seconded, that the Committee approves the minutes of the October 19, 2011 Connecticut Technical High School Committee meeting.

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

Motion carried.

IV. Public Participation - None

V. Consent Agenda – None

VI. Items Requiring Action - None

VII. Items for Discussion - None

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

a) Storm Alfred

Superintendent Ciccone stated that all of the schools are open and are being assessed for any damage caused by Storm Alfred. Wolcott Tech served as a respite site where citizens of the town were able to shower, sleep and eat.

b) Fiscal and Positions

Mr. Chasse stated that the 2011-2012 operating budget for all of the technical high schools have been distributed to the schools. He stated that OPM has requested that all budgets be posted on the website. He said that some LPN students were behind in their payments.

Superintendent Ciccone stated that the CTHSS is down 103 positions and the process to post, screen and interview applicants are very timely.

Mr. Jaskiewicz stated the LPN program needs to be taken to a higher level – LPN to RN – BSN and that a link to higher education billing should go through the community colleges and be able to push it within a 3 month process.

Superintendent Ciccone stated that with the support of the board there is no reason it can't be done. Superintendent Ciccone is hopeful that a meeting with Commissioner Meotti from the Department of Labor can be held before the Christmas holiday.

Mr. Jaskiewicz stated his concern on removing the April vacation and suggested some options which included making up the days to the next school year calendar.

c) Bullying

Superintendent Ciccone stated that the principals are working very hard to improve school climate. All districts surveyed students, parents and staff. Drs. Jonathan Cohen (founder) and George Igel (Chair of Center Board) from the National School Climate Association will be coming to Connecticut.

Mr. Jaskiewicz suggested groups of technical high school students go into the middle schools and let them know what we do and what we have to offer or have the middle schools come to the technical high schools to shadow students for a day. He also suggested a relationship with Grasso Tech and Electric Boat – have the tech students visit Electric Boat and have Electric Boat visit shops at Grasso.

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca stated that potential students do not have a strong sense of all of the trades and should have that exposure to all of the trade options.

d) J. M. Wright Technical High School

Superintendent Ciccone stated that J.M. Wright Technical High School is slated to reopen in 2014. She has provided the Ad Hoc Report to the Commissioner who is reviewing. The hiring of administrators and staff would be necessary by SY 2012-13 to begin recruitment process and other preparations.

e) CTHSS Task Force

Superintendent Ciccone said that the CTHSS Taskforce is planning to meet on November 17th at Wilcox Tech. The theme for this meeting will be adult education.

Chairman Vrabely stated he has asked the Taskforce Chair to write a resolution stating that the technical high schools will not be closed.

Superintendent Ciccone stated that the Section 10-76 Report has been updated with new information and documents. It will go to the Joint Committees for their public hearing later this month.

IX. Other Matters - None

Mrs. Keavney-Maruca asked that the October 1st enrollment data be shared with the committee.

Mr. Jaskiewicz stated that the NAACP will hold its annual meeting, Reestablishing Educational Excellence, on October 19, 2012 at a location to be determined and Commissioner Pryor will be the keynote speaker.

Mr. Jaskiewicz stated his concern over an incident at Norwich Tech and if proper emergency procedures were followed.

The committee and staff members thank the Hotel and Hospitality Management for the wonderful job on making the arrangements necessary for the meeting.

X. Public Participation - None

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Minutes approved at the December 21, 2011 meeting.