

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
June 15, 2011

Pursuant to noticed filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on June 15, 2011, at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, Torrington, CT.

Committee Member Present:	Joseph Vrabely, Jr., Chair Patricia Keavney-Maruca Ellen Camhi
State Department of Education:	Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent Nivea Torres, Assistant Superintendent Pamela Charland, SDE Office James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant Robert Axon, Principal, Oliver Wolcott Technical H.S. Osvaldo Rosado, Student, Oliver Wolcott Technical H.S. Molly Inman, Student, Oliver Wolcott Technical H.S.
State Vocational Federation of Teachers	Greg Beyer, Treasurer

- I. Chairperson Vrabely called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. Mr. Vrabely introduced the students who shared some of their impressions of Oliver Wocott Tech.
- II. Executive Session - None
- III. Consideration of Minutes of May 18, 2011, CTHS Committee Meeting
Mrs. Keavney-Maruca moved, Ms. Camhi seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the May 18, 2011 Connecticut Technical High School Committee.

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

Motion carried.

- IV. Public Participation - None
- V. Consent Agenda - None
- VI. Items Requiring Action - None
- VII. Items for Discussion
 - a. Inventory Executive Summary

Mr. Chasse discussed the asset verification system, a two times a year requirement at the school level. Round one of the asset verification is 80 percent verified at this time and the 20 percent left will be completed by June 24, 2011. It is going very well. The results of the inventory will be analyzed during the summer and the goal is to provide schools with updated inventory reports in the fall. The IT analysts were trained on the agency's transfer and disposal system. Use of this system by the IT analysts will improve official inventory results.

b. Fiscal Report

Mr. Chasse stated that the Adult Education programs needs to run as a financially self-sustaining entity. The district's request to increase the Apprentice tuition rate from \$100.00 to \$275.00 per course was not approved during the recent legislative session.

Therefore, the apprentice tuition rate will remain at \$100.00 for fiscal year 2012. There are currently 6 technical high school locations used for apprentice classes. The district will have to further consolidate the number of locations since the tuition increase was not approved. Superintendent Ciccone stated that the tuition increase did not have the support of the Department of Labor or those who feel it would impact employers, i.e. the employer is responsible for 50 percent of the tuition fee, the cost of doing business in the State would further increase.

The district's request for capital funding for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 has been legislatively approved for \$28 million dollars per year and we now await the governor's approval.

An updated copy of the Rolling Capital Improvement and Capitol Equipment Plan Executive Summary was distributed to the committee members.

Pat Ciccone said that they testified in front of the Committee on Revenue, Bonding and Finance and received legislative support for the capital budget request.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

Discussion regarding the final status of legislative requests submitted for consideration took place. While the next legislative session will be shorter than the recently completed session, the district will resubmit a request to increase the Apprenticeship tuition rate.

The tuition rate of \$275 per apprentice class has been requested for many years. The Governor's Budget Secretary has proclaimed that there has been a decline in the number of apprentices in the work force. The State will need a skilled work force to grow our businesses and industries. As a result of continued program consolidation, apprentice students are traveling further and some people have to leave work early to get there on time.

The Indemnification legislation passed which should result in additional large ticket donations of equipment to our schools being considered by companies.

The bill that proposed the transfer of the Connecticut Technical High Schools to local districts also did not pass. However, legislation to form a task force to study the school districts did pass. We do not know who will be appointed to the task force. We do know the backgrounds necessary to fill each seat.

At the next state board meeting, the Superintendent will review with the State Board the list of proposed seats for the task force

On current and anticipated vacancies, the Superintendent asked the Tech Committee to understand the critical nature of timing. The hiring process is a long procedure. There are normally approximately 50 vacancies that need to be filled during the summer. This year, there are currently more than 69 vacancies that need to be filled.

The Commissioner and Superintendent met with OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes on June 14, 2011 to discuss the district's hiring requirements to start the 2011-12 school year. While the current authorized full-time general fund position count is 1461, the Superintendent requested that OPM reinstate the auto-refill authority previously afforded the school district.

Secretary Barnes indicated none of the 69 teacher vacancies and 16 administrator vacancies will be considered until the results of the SEBAC voting are finalized.

There is also a critical need for clericals and fiscal people in our staffing but we can not get permission to refill them without the ratification.

The student applicant pool continues to increase very well.

Lastly, there was a major issue regarding representatives from the cities of Hamden and New Haven who wanted to visit Eli Whitney for a walk through while the school was in session. We could not allow it to happen. A compromise tour will take place in the Fall. Any plans that other districts or other individuals have for improving CTHSS schools should be brought to the attention of the State Board of Education for discussion.

Joe Vrabely stated that proper protocol must be followed when these types of issues arise so to not cause havoc in the schools. But we are open to new ideas for a better education in our schools and we need to educate people as to who we are and what we provide in education.

IX. Other Matters - None.

X. Public Participation - None

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes approved at the September 21, 2011 meeting.