

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting
October 27, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on October 27, 2008 at the Connecticut Technical High School System – Central Office in Middletown.

- I. Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman
Mrs. Beverly Bobroske
Mrs. Theresa Hopkins-Staten
SDE Staff Present: Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent
Mr. John Murphy, Manufacturing Consultant

Chairperson Coolican called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

- II. Executive Session. None

- III. Consideration of Minutes of July 22, 2008 and September 10, 2008

Upon motion duly made by Beverly Bobroske, and seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, the July 22, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Bobroske, Coolican, Hopkins-Staten
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Upon motion duly made by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, and seconded by Donald Coolican, the September 10, 2008 minutes were approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten
Opposed: 0
Abstained: Bobroske

- IV. Public Participation – Mrs. Pat Keavney, Vice President, SVFT urged the CT Committee to hold a meeting at Eli Whitney so that they can see the amount of work needed due to the poor conditions at the school.

- V. Consent Agenda. No consent agenda was provided for the Committee's consideration.

- VI. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action

a) Proposed Meeting Locations and Time – September 2008 – June 2009

Upon motion duly made by Beverly Bobroske, and seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, the proposed meeting locations and time schedule for September 2008 – June 2009 was approved with the following change: January 14, 2009 – 9:30 a.m., Eli Whitney Technical High School, Hamden; delete Kaynor Tech, Waterbury, January 14, 2009 9:30 a.m.

b) Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Facilities Management

Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of the proposed Facilities Management trade to be piloted at J.M. Wright Tech for the 2009-10 school year. It is based on the projected employment demand for graduates of the program. The CTHSS will monitor enrollment, retention and graduate follow-up data for this program and share it with the CTHS Committee.

Upon motion duly made by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Facilities Management was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

c) Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Media Production

Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of the proposed Media Production trade to be piloted at Cheney Tech for the 2009-10 school year and at J.M. Wright Tech for the 2011-12 school year. Occupations such as audio and video equipment technicians, broadcast technicians, producers and directors are having a much faster than average growth rate. Students from the Media Production program can branch out into any of these areas. Students also can attend Quinnipiac College and earn a bachelor's degree and Norwalk Community College with an associate's degree. The committee members asked questions and a discussion was held which included was a student survey conducted, will Sheff dollars be used, is there a waiting list, etc. Dr. Hughes stated there was no student survey and Sheff money will be used in support of the new program with the approval of the Office of Policy and Management.

Upon motion duly made by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Media Production was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

d) Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Music and Theatre Production

Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of the proposed Music and Theatre Production trade to be piloted at Prince Tech in the fall of 2009. This trade will provide students with fundamental skills in the various aspects of music and theatre production. It falls in line with the mission of the CTHSS by preparing students for post-secondary education or immediate productive employment. Committee members expressed their concern regarding transportation for suburban students to attend Prince Tech. Mrs. Bobroske requested that a notation be made concerning the need for transportation to be provided for suburban students to attend Prince Tech. Chairman Coolican stated he would like this issue to be brought to the attention of the full board at a State Board of Education meeting.

Upon motion duly made by Beverly Bobroske, and seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, the Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Music and Theatre Production was approved with the following amendment: If transportation for suburban students to attend Prince Tech is not available, the impact of this new trade to attract suburban students will be diminished.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

e) Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Business Management

Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of the proposed Business Management trade to be piloted at Wright Tech for the 2010-11 school year. The program will provide students with the basic fundamentals of the operation of business and the market place and will enable Wright Tech students to earn Norwich Community College credits toward an associate's degree. This would be the only program offering that would require continued higher education and a terminal degree. This would contribute to changing the perception of Wright Tech.

Upon motion duly made by Beverly Bobroske, and seconded by Theresa Hopkins-Staten, the Proposed Trade Authorization Report – Business Management was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

VII. Items for Discussion

a) Update on Manufacturing Technology

John Murphy, the manufacturing consultant, outlined the latest efforts and activities initiated by the CTHSS in response to the current and emerging needs of the manufacturing industry across our state. John explained this new direction will reinforce the requests of the state manufacturing interests groups and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) to increase student interest and involvement in manufacturing technology within our schools, thus within the state. John's discussion included the move to a nationally recognized assessment instrument through the National Institute of Metalworking Skills (NIMS). In addition, the system will be collaborating with CBIA and the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology to implement innovative 3D simulation software and web-based instructional tools.

b) Update on J.M. Wright Technical High School

Dr. Hughes gave a brief update on Wright Tech. She stated that Mr. Joe LaVorgna, Interim Principal, has been doing a remarkable job at getting the school in order. There was a large turnout during the recruitment process due to the efforts of Mr. LaVorgna and his students. The school is fully staffed with the exception of 1 position. Mr. LaVorgna has met with the alumni association and has their support along with the support of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers. Mr. LaVorgna will invite the CTHS Committee members to meet in January 2009 with the Advisory Committee on Wright Tech. She stated that Trailblazers, who rents space at Wright Tech, was notified by Commissioner McQuillan that their lease would not be renewed in June of 2009. This will allow for the removal of asbestos and prepare the space for Wright Tech students and Norwalk Community College who will bring in a Language Arts Lab which the students will use during the day. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten asked that a comprehensive plan be put in action in order to track what is being done in terms of timelines,

strategies, etc. at Wright Tech. Dr. Hughes stated that it would be difficult at this time to provide the comprehensive plan as Mr. LaVorgna has only 1 assistant principal and gathering all of this information at this time would be time consuming. Mrs. Hopkins-Staton asked for an initial plan and will send a template. Dr. Hughes handed out the October 1, 2008 enrollment for CTHSS. Mrs. Bobroske asked that the committee be apprised of the enrollment numbers every month.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

a) Charter Oak Clinic at A.I. Prince Technical High School

Dr. Hughes gave a brief summary of the Charter Oak Clinic at A.I. Prince. The program is working well with an increase in students seeking health care. The summary is on file at central office.

b) Inventory Control

A discussion was held on inventory control. The committee continue to express the need to have controls in place and to hold the individuals accountable for missing inventory. Chairman Coolican asked that a plan be shared with the committee. Dr. Hughes stated a department committee was created, has held a number of meetings and solutions are being identified which will be put into place as soon as it is finalized and approved by the Office of Internal Audit.

IX. Other Matters – None.

X. Public Participation – Mr. Mick Nallen, President, Thermatool Corporation, spoke of the relationship his manufacturing company has with technical high school students. Thermatool Corp. has hired many technical high school students who are very successful. He expressed his desire to work closely with the committee and CTHSS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by Elizabeth Rivera