

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting
December 10, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on December 10, 2008 at E. C. Goodwin Technical High School in New Britain.

- I. Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairman
Mrs. Beverly Bobroske
SDE Staff Present: Dr. Abigail Hughes, Superintendent
Mr. Steve Anderson, Principal, E.C. Goodwin Tech

Chairperson Coolican called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

- II. Executive Session: None.

- III. Consideration of the Minutes of October 27, 2008

Upon motion duly made by Donald Coolican, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the October 27, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske.
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

- IV. Public Participation: None.

- V. Consent Agenda: None.

- VI. Items requiring committee action

- a.) Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2010-2014

Dr. Hughes identified funding needs over time for the state's technical high schools, no funds have been received to date. Initially awarded 8 million, but there's a bonding cap and there have been no additional funds. Mr. Coolican stated Wright Tech is out of our hands, by June we should know something. Dr. Hughes stated that Wright Tech was on the revised schedule of the Bond Commission.

Upon motion duly made by Chairperson Coolican, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the Connecticut Technical High School System's Rolling Capital Improvement and Capital Equipment Plan 2010-2014 was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

- b.) Biennial Report

Dr. Hughes explained that the Connecticut Technical High School System biennial report is completed every two years and contains data on applicants, enrollment, graduate follow-up activities, fiscal information and is continually monitored. Goodwin has made positive changes; there is an increase in enrollment, 75% of the renovations are complete and there has been an increase in students going out on production.

Upon motion duly made by Chairperson Coolican and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the Biennial Report was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

c.) Reauthorization of Computer Cluster

Mr. Jon Waleski told the committee members that this is a request for a five (5) year reauthorization of the Information Technology Cluster. Board members questioned that there was no class of 2010 listed on page 2 of the report for Bristol Tech and Graphics showed a decline for employment over the next few years. Mr. Waleski pointed out that new technology is coming out in the Graphics field such as digital output, computer software to exactly match colors, offset presses that will produce large amounts of copying. The Graphics field is being fine tuned for the future. In the Electronics, Graphics and Info Tech field's students are more able to secure employment after graduation. Chairperson Coolican asked Mr. Waleski to define the difference between Electronics and Electrical. Mr. Waleski's definition was Electrical brings in the power; Electronic Tech works on cell phones, designs and builds, and trouble shoots.

Upon motion duly made by Beverly Bobroske and seconded by Chairperson Coolican, the Reauthorization of the Information Technology Cluster was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

d.) Rename the Oliver Wolcott Gymnasium

Mrs. Bobroske moved to rename the gym the Dr. William "Doc" Perlotto Gymnasium.

Upon motion by Beverly Bobroske and seconded by Chairperson Coolican the request to rename the Gymnasium at Oliver Wolcott was approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: 0

VII. Items for Discussion

a.) Strategic School Profile 2007-08

Dr. Hughes pointed out that all schools have different school profiles. The free food program was brought up and Dr. Hughes stated that the free food program is based on the number of students eligible. Beverly Bobroske said this report shows a great number of free and reduced and everyone should be free – 100 %. The committee asked why there was nothing in the gifted and talented area. Talent needs to be identified. Schools in the district have a large community of diversity. Our students tend to work more and there are a high percentage of students going into jobs of their field when they graduate. How many kids are proficient? Dr. Hughes told the committee that our schools did very well and most went up in scores. Chairman Coolican would like to bring the SIP to the full board along with the proficiency report. Beverly Bobroske said that the Technical High Schools need to have this positive news brought to the public. NOCTI not listed on the SSP. Dr. Hughes pointed out that not every school participates in NOCTI.

b.) J. M. Wright High School update

Dr. Hughes told the committee that Mr. Joe LaVorgna met with students and staff and told them that there is a possibility that J. M. Wright may close. Mr. LaVorgna is holding teachers accountable and recruiting efforts have increased. The Governor's report may indicate if school will close. Let the Board of Education members see enrollment numbers – show how many student actually start.

VIII. Report of Superintendent

Dr. Hughes reported that most schools have had their open house and will be holding Shop Selection Nights. In January all students will be in their shop of choice. The school uniform policy was discussed – all but four (4) schools have uniforms, but that will be changing soon. Uniforms are a great idea; students can be easily identified, everyone's dressed the same, easier for the parents. Also Mr. Anderson, Principal at E. C. Goodwin T.H.S. mentioned that Goodwin has uniform and clothes closets, so if a student needs a shirt or proper pants they can borrow the item for the day. Chairman Coolican asked what the seniors do with their uniforms. Mr. Anderson responded that most turn them in to the school closet for students who cannot afford to purchase a tee shirt or sweatshirt. Dr. Hughes stated that the first trimester exams are completed and we can now provide data to schools on district assessments, grades, attendance and suspensions. Testing is held every trimester.

IX. Other Matters

Mrs. Bobroske said at the Career Expo held in Hartford, parents were asking how their child can sign up to attend a technical school. The schools of choice for Hartford are Goodwin, Vinal and Cheney.

X. Public Participation

Mitchell Kogut, TRANE. Mr. Kogut inquired on which shops students are getting into.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sandra Carey