

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting  
January 14, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, The Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the “Committee” met on January, 14, 2009 at Eli Whitney Technical High School in Hamden.

- I. Committee Members Present: Mr. Donald Coolican, Chairperson  
Mrs. Beverly Bobroske  
SDE Staff Present Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent  
Ms. E. Paulett Moore, Principal, Eli Whitney Technical High School

Chairperson Coolican called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

- II. Executive Session: None

- III. Consideration of Minutes of December 10, 2008

Upon motion duly made by Donald Coolican, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the December 10, 2008 minutes were unanimously approved.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Bobroske  
Opposed: None  
Abstained: None

- IV. Public Participation:

- The committee was addressed with a concern from an Aunt of a student. She questioned the importance of the meeting versus the safety of students. The committee could not comment on her concern. Principal Moore informed the Aunt that she would discuss the matter with her later.
- Judy Moran, V.P. Human Resources, Waterford Group and Chair, TTAC, Grasso Tech Hotel and Customer Service Program – Ms. Moran spoke of her impressions and involvement with the Grasso Tech Hospitality/Customer Service Program. Her letter is on file at CTHSS Central Office. Ms. Moran was not able to be present at the meeting, however, she wanted her comments referenced in the minutes.

- V. Consent Agenda: None

- VI. Items Requiring Committee Action

- a.) Hospitality and Customer Service Management Technology Trade Reauthorization.

Dr. Hughes explained the program that is at Grasso Tech. She mentioned the concerns that were raised upon initial implementation of the program. The program underwent a two-year review process. There has been a major revision of the curriculum based on 5 major areas. This includes the development of the new software program called NITE VISION. This program has received strong support from businesses and industry specifically from both Connecticut Casinos.

Upon motion duly made by Donald Coolican, and seconded by Beverly Bobroske, the Hospitality and Customer Service Management Technology Trade Reauthorization was unanimously approved.

VOTE:    In favor:        Coolican, Bobroske  
          Opposed:        None  
          Abstained:       None

VII.    Items for Discussion

a.)      Update on School Lunch Report

Dr. Hughes and James Chasse reported on school lunch. The school lunch budget is in the red by \$1.4 million although it generates \$3.3 million in revenue. The deficit in the budget is attributed to the fact that SDE employs 71 people in its school cafeterias. 50-55 of these employees are union members who are subject to collective bargaining and entitled to benefits. Chasse mentioned that it would be by hiring café staff who only work 2-3 hours per day, more money could be found to hire instructors and pay for books, etc.

b.)      National Automotive Program Certification for the CTHSS

Larry Eiden presented a power point that highlighted the benefits, steps, and status of NATEF certification in the schools. The goal is to have all automotive technology programs NATEF certified. The cost to certify instructors is around \$100 per person. The cost to certify each program is around \$1,000. Outside of these costs are the costs of new equipment which schools usually need in order to be certified. These costs vary based on the equipment needed.

C.       Update on Charter Oak Clinic

Dr. Hughes informed the committee that the dental clinic reopened in Mid-December, after being closed due to water damage. Currently there are 261 permission forms. This is good considering that Prince Tech has less than 600 students. She commented that this is a positive program that is up and running.

VIII.   Report of the Superintendent

Dr. Hughes reported on Wright Tech. Unable to determine the impact of the proposed action to close the school for 2 years. Wright Tech lost 11 students between October and January which represents almost 5% of the students. The date doesn't indicate the reason students left (i.e., moved out of district, etc). No final decision has been made concerning closing the school; therefore they are recruiting as if the school will remain open.

Chairperson Coolican requested information on the number of applications that have been received thus far. He would like this information before the next meeting.

Dr. Hughes reported that we are waiting for the governor's budget in order to hire an instructor to teach facilities management.

IX. Other matters

- Beverly Bobroske commented on a newspaper article about a trade that closed at Goodwin Tech. She would have appreciated being given a heads up about the situation before she read about it in the paper. Dr. Hughes commented that she was asked for information about the Electro-Mechanical trade at Goodwin, but she did not know that the newspaper would actually run the story.
- The two students present at the meeting were asked about their choice of Eli Whitney as their high school. Both students were encouraged to come to Eli Whitney from their older siblings who graduated from the school.
- Dr. Hughes mentioned that she received a FOI (Freedom of Information) request about Wright Tech for the past year. This request came from Representative Gerald Fox, III.

X. Public Participation

- Alumnus Ed Jolly spoke about the current budget for Manufacturing Technology. Manufacturing Technology was allocated \$2,500 for 52 students. This amounts to \$47.16 per student. Some machines in the shop are at least 25 years old. Platt Tech, however, received 7 new machines this year and 2 more are on the way. Dr. Hughes responded that the renovation of Eli Whitney has been approved by the EPA. The project will be going out to bid and the renovations should be complete in 2012. Included in the cost of renovation are funds for new equipment for Manufacturing Technology and other trades.
- Alumnus Joseph Cruz spoke in support of the Hospitality and Customer Service Management Trade at Grasso Tech. He made the suggestion that the title of the program be changed to replace the words "customer service" with guest service. In the hospitality industry the word customer is not used, people are referred to as guest. His suggestion was duly noted by the committee.
- Jessica Hodge spoke in support of the Hospitality and Customer Service Management Trade at Grasso Tech. She commented that the graduates of this program are well prepared to work in the industry. The committee requested that she inform them of suggestions that she may have to improve the program.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m. by Chairperson Coolican.

Respectfully submitted by: Ann-Gela Holloway

