

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 11, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on February 11, 2009 at the Connecticut Technical High School System, Middletown.

I. Interim Chairwoman Bobroske called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Mrs. Beverly Bobroske Ms. Theresa Hopkins-Staten
CTHSS Staff Present	Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent Ms. Patricia Ciccone, Assistant Superintendent Mr. Joseph Campbell

II. Executive Session: None

III. Consideration of January 14, 2009 Minutes  
The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Participation - None

V. Consent Agenda - None

VI. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action:

a. CTHSS Technology Plan, 2009-2012

Joseph Campbell, CTHS Technology Consultant, gave a brief overview of the Technology Plan. The purpose of the Technology Plan is to provide direction and vision in the use of technology as it informs instruction. Technology infrastructure needs are addressed in the plan, as well as, instructional software needs. This document will be the focal point of the direction of technology in the district for the next three years. The plan will be available on the internet and at each schools' website.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the committee approve the CTHSS Technology Plan, 2009-2012.

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

b. CTHSS Graduation Requirements – Career Development

Dr. Hughes provided information to the committee members on the proposed increase in the graduation credit requirements to include Career Development beginning with the

class of 2013. It is designed to provide students with the specific skills and competencies needed to be successful employees, advanced students and entrepreneurs and leaders. Students are exposed to experiences that are designed to further develop their professional and social skills and include topics such as interviewing and business meeting skills, social etiquette skills and customer service skills. Students will be able to make wiser educational and occupational decisions as they plan for their careers and post-secondary education.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the committee approve the CTHSS Graduation Requirements for Career Development.

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

c. Title 1 School Improvement Plans

Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview and provided the committee members with a comprehensive plan for the four schools (Prince, Goodwin, Eli Whitney and Wright Tech) who have not met the criteria for Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP). The district will continue to work with these schools and their school improvement plans. Ms. Hopkins-Staten commented on the labeling of students (example – black) and suggested that the word be ‘softened’.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the committee approve the Title 1 School Improvement Plans.

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

VII. Items for Discussion

a. J.M. Wright Technical High School – Update

Dr. Hughes gave an update on Wright Tech which included but not limited to: her meeting with the Lt. Governor; support from SVFT; Mr. LaVorgna continues to do an amazing job; new ad in the Advocate on recruitment and fiscal dilemmas. She stated that she is confident that with change, Wright Tech can start building up again.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

- Dr. Hughes spoke briefly on the NOCTI and CAPT testing which will be starting in March.
- Administrators are monitoring the number of snow days to determine their graduation date.

IX. Other Matters

- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten asked for an update on the renovation of Eli Whitney. Dr. Hughes stated that the bidding date is set for March 2009.
- Mrs. Hopkins-Staten asked if there was any impact with the Sheff initiative on students wanting to attend Prince Tech. Dr. Hughes stated that the impediment lies with the monies needed to transport students from the suburbs into Hartford.
- Mrs. Bobroske shared a 'poem' on what it means to graduate from high school. She attended a graduation in Colorado and the principal read the poem to all in attendance as part of the program.
- Mrs. Bobroske commented that a state legislator asked a board member "do you think the schools spend too much time testing?" Mrs. Bobroske asked that Dr. Hughes report back to the committee members on how much time is spent on CAPT and NOCTI testing in the technical high schools at their next meeting. Mrs. Bobroske also asked if the teachers were in the classroom during the testing – Dr. Hughes stated yes.

X. Public Participation

Ms. Patricia Keavney, V.P., SVFT, stated it is a state requirement that CAPT testing had to be administered by a certified teacher. Dr. Hughes stated that she was not aware it was a state requirement yet this is what is done in CTHSS.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.