

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 7, 2009

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on April 7, 2009 at the Connecticut Technical High School System, Middletown.

Committee Members Present:

Mrs. Beverly Bobroske

Ms. Theresa Hopkins-Staten (participated via conference telephone)

Ms. Janet Finneran

CTHSS Staff Present

Dr. Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent

I. Interim Chairwoman Bobroske called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

II. Executive Session: None

III. Consideration of March 11, 2009 Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Participation - Mr. Mitchell Kogut, Business Development Leader, Education, TRANE, asked if there was any word on new construction. Dr. Hughes stated that there was no new information.

V. Consent Agenda - None

VI. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action: None

VII. Items for Discussion

a. Caller I.D. on all CTHS Phones/Cost

A discussion was held on upgrading the telephones in the technical high schools with Caller I.D. Dr. Hughes shared cost information with the members. She stated that multiple phones are answered at each school and each telephone would have to be upgraded. The technical schools have a contract with Sonitrol. Mrs. Hopkins-Staten stated that she could not justify upgrading the phone system at this time given the state's fiscal climate. Members asked that Dr. Hughes look into having the telephones retrofitted during school renovations and to look at other telephone companies to ensure the Technical High School System is getting the best value for its money.

b. School Inventory Protocols

Members voiced their serious concerns on the lack of control, accountability and security with items missing from the schools. Ms. Hopkins-Staten suggested Dr. Hughes check with local businesses that have a similar need to track inventory and to replicate those practices, if appropriate. She also stated that when a school continues to have inventory losses the individual ultimately responsible for the inventory controls should come before the Technical High School System Committee and perhaps the State Board of Education with a corrective action plan. Mrs. Bobroske asked that Dr. Hughes address how reports are filled out. She also asked that the policy on equipment being signed out to individual's homes also be looked at. Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked that school inventory be placed bi-monthly on the agenda.

c. Affirmative Action Plan Update

Committee members requested Sharon Gaddy, Affirmative Action Officer, SDE, to attend next month's meeting to give them an update of the department's plan and a sense of what the plan looks like prior to submission to CHRO on June 15, 2009.

d. J.M. Wright Technical High School Update

Dr. Hughes shared a template of Wright Tech High School Plan, with the members which articulated the intended goals/objectives for Wright Tech. The plan included tactic, owner, timing, status and comments. Ms. Hopkins-Staten suggested under the comment section of the school plan, risks, challenges and successes be identified. Mrs. Bobroske stated that the plan be shared with the legislature and the Lt. Governor at a future date. A copy of the plan is on file at central office.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten commented on the fact that Mr. Joe LaVorgna took on the challenge willingly, and that he and his team are working tirelessly to reverse the trend of low enrollment at Wright Tech, and that the low enrollment numbers are in no way a reflection on him or his efforts. He has the right attitude and disposition but Wright Tech continues to be a challenge. She went on to state that the Commissioner McQuillan should meet with the Lt. Governor and provide him with a status report on the low enrollment for the next school year.

Ms. Finneran asked if there was a cut-off point – if not she suggested setting some end point.

The committee proposed and seconded a motion to write a commendation from them to Mr. LaVorgna.

Mr. Tanasi shared at the meeting that the middle school concept and the merger with NCC has been put on hold for two years. There is a proposal to form a study group.

e. Reasons for Students Leaving CTHSS

Dr. Hughes shared an enrollment update of the technical high schools. Members said that it would be helpful to them if they received the update a week before the meeting. A copy is on file at central office.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

- Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of Skills USA which took place on March 27, 2009 at Vinal Technical High School with over 700 students participating. She stated that a large number of students would compete at the national level in Kansas.
- Dr. Hughes gave a brief overview of the NOCTI testing. The judges are now able to electronically score the students resulting in return scores within one week.
- Dr. Hughes stated she would share the graduation dates with the full board soon and would ask principals to read an "Academic Regalia" which Mrs. Bobroske shared with the committee which she obtained when she attended a high school graduation in Colorado.

IX. Other Matters

- Nutmeg TV, About Town, interviewed Steve Anderson, Principal, E.C. Goodwin Technical High School regarding programs and the renovation at the school.
- The 2009-2010 CT Committee meeting schedule will be discussed at the June 16, 2009 meeting.

X. Public Participation

- Mr. Rich Tanasi, President, SVFT, asked why Eli Whitney was not on the 'shovel ready list' and Kaynor was listed as seeking an additional \$7M. Dr. Hughes stated that the list does not identify start dates. OPM approves the schedule of school construction.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.