

J. M. Wright Technical High School
Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes of February 8, 2010 Meeting
1:30 p.m.
CTHSS, Central Office, Middletown

Members in Attendance:

Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education; Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent, CTHSS; Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent, CTHSS; Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT); James Chasse, Education Consultant, CTHSS; Peter Cerruto, Chief of Engineering, CTHSS; Ray Mencio, Unit Coordinator for Trades, CTHSS; Al Richmond, Consultant, CTHSS; Al Sanseverino, J.M. Wright Tech Advisory Committee; Michael Fedele, Lt. Governor; Moira Lyons, Norwalk Community College; Beverly Bobroske, State Board of Education; Bruce Ellefsen, SDE; Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent, CTHSS; Brian Mahoney, SDE; Joshua Starr, Stamford Superintendent

Beverly Bobroske called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

1. Welcome

Mrs. Bobroske welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Consideration of Minutes of the January 25, 2010, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Commissioner McQuillan moved, Ms. Lyons seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes.

Vote:	In Favor:	All Members Present except for Beverly Bobroske
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	Beverly Bobroske

Motion carried.

3. Trade Technology Selection and Cost Projections Update

Mr. Chasse updated the committee members on the trade technology selection and cost projections. A discussion followed which included possible cost changes for equipment and possible delays in the renovation; when program options be available to share with the Stamford folks; public service needs in the Stamford area; and possible accelerated programs for recruitment purposes. Mrs. Bobroske asked that the full name - Tourism/Hotel Hospitality and Guest Services Management be used when referring to that trade as approved at a CT Committee meeting.

4. Review of Stamford Chamber Market Analysis Updates

In the absence of Chairman Condlin, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Other Building Considerations

A discussion was held on the renovation timelines and an anticipated 2014 opening. It was acknowledged that an earlier start date would not be likely, but welcome if possible. Marketing and recruitment, to sending districts, hiring staff, hiring a new image was discussed. Other considerations to costs were reported, i.e. 3 private guards monitoring

J.M. Wright at present (24/7), efforts to reduce continued high heating electricity costs, moving other equipment, etc. to other schools before renovation. It was noted that a significant amount of asbestos removal has been completed. The general contractor will be responsible for completing that abatement in the renovation. The committee also reviewed a brief portion of the interior of J.M. Wright DVD showing shops as they exist now.

6. Enrollment Study Update

Ms. Ciccone stated that she met with Dr. Thomas Cooke twice from the CT Data Center, University of Connecticut. She shared a proposal which he submitted for consideration. After some discussion a motion was made by Commissioner McQuillan and seconded by Dr. Starr to accept the proposal and the \$21, 452 fee, and have Dr. Cooke report back to the committee on or before May 1, 2010.

Vote:	In Favor:	All Members Present
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried.

7. Focus Groups - Discussion

Ms. Ciccone informed the Committee that the focus group proposal and plan submitted by the CT Data Center would be too costly (\$35,000) and too lengthy (10 months). The need to reach out to parents was acknowledged as valuable, but would best be done with a preliminary design, programs and pictures and videos of what Wright Tech will offer and look like after the renovation. Commissioner McQuillan suggested the Committee make a decision at the next meeting to accept the seven trades and build in other trades at a future date. He also committed to getting information on the Safety Academy located in Enfield, as a precursor to considering a Fire and Police Preparation for J.M. Wright suggested by Dr. Starr.

8. Other Matters

Mrs. Bobroske suggested Tom Murphy from the State Department of Education develop a press release on what the Wright Tech Ad Hoc Committee is doing. The committee decided to convene the next Ad Hoc meeting at Goodwin Tech. After the meeting members will take a brief tour of the new shops to see the changes in 21st century designs.

As part of the agreement, its recommendation to the State Board of Education, with a stipulation that operating money occur 1 year before the school's scheduled opening.

9. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next meeting February 22, 2010, 1:30 p.m. at E.C. Goodwin Technical High School, New Britain, CT

Minutes approved at the February 22, 2010 meeting