

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
February 17, 2010

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on February 17, 2010, at the Connecticut Technical High School System, Middletown, CT.

Committee Members Present:	Mrs. Beverly Bobroske, Chair Ms. Theresa Hopkins-Staten Ms. Linda McMahon – via telephone
State Department of Education and CTHSS Staff Present:	Ms. Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent Beatrice Tinty, CTHSS Legal Consultant Mr. James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant Pamela Bergin, SDE Office Nikitoula Menounos, Principal, Norwich Tech and American Federation of School Administrators Member Drew Soltys, CTHSS Consultant Al Richmond, CTHSS Consultant Ray Mencio, CTHSS Consultant Kim Traverso, CTHSS Consultant
State Vocational Federation of Teachers	Rick Tanasi, President

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

II. Executive Session – The committee met on two personnel matters.

III. Consideration of Minutes of November 10, 2009, CTHS Committee Meeting

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Ms. McMahon seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009, Connecticut Technical High School Committee.

Vote: In Favor: McMahon, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

IV. Public Participation – None

V. Consent Agenda – None

VI. Items Requiring Action

a) Rolling Capital Report

Mr. Chasse gave a brief update on the Rolling Capital Report. The report provides a roadmap for future state capital funding, in support of attractive, safe and well maintained facilities and equipment that are conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. Ms. Hopkins-Staten

moved, Ms. McMahon seconded, that the Committee approve the Rolling Capital Plan 2011-2015.

Vote: In Favor: McMahon, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

b) Renaming of Prince Technical High School Soccer Field

Ms. Ciccone recommended to the Committee, that the A.I. Prince Soccer Field be renamed the William Moriarty Soccer Field. William Moriarty was a social studies teacher, general education department head and soccer coach for 31 years at A. I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford. He began his tenure at Prince Tech in 1965 and retired in 1996. He coached a variety of sports at Prince Tech, but achieved the most success coaching the soccer team. He coached soccer for 27 years producing some of the best teams in the state during the late 1960's and 1970's. His teams made it to the state semifinals on several occasions. He also served as the Athletic Director in 1976. Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Ms. McMahon seconded, that the Committee approve the renaming of A.I. Prince Soccer Field to William Moriarty Soccer Field.

Vote: In Favor: McMahon, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

c) Reauthorization of Trades

Ms. Ciccone recommended to the Committee, the reauthorization of the following trades for the period January 2010 to January 2015:

- Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing
- Automotive Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technicians
- Computer Aided Drafting and Design
- Diesel and Heavy Duty Equipment Repair
- Electromechanical Technology
- Manufacturing Technology
- Welding and Metal Fabrication
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Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Ms. McMahon seconded, that the Committee approve the Reauthorization of Trades.

Vote: In Favor: McMahon, Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
Opposed: 0
Abstained: 0

Motion carried unanimously

Mrs. Bobroske asked that the full name, Tourism, Hospitality and Guest Services Management be used.

VII. Items for Discussion

a. CTHSS Inventory Update

Mr. Chasse stated that the inventory process is moving forward. Progress is being made in accounting for and maintaining an accurate inventory record for all of the schools. Mrs. Bobroske noted her repeated concern on the missing and damaged items and finds it unacceptable. She noted that while progress is being made, more should be done.

b. J.M. Wright Tech Update

Ms. Ciccone gave a brief update to the Committee which included meetings held with the Wright Tech Ad Hoc Committee; the enrollment study; recommended trades; a focus group consisting of department staff; and a meeting that was held with some legislators to discuss Wright Tech. Ms. Hopkins-Staten restated her concern for Eli Whitney's need of repair and that renovations should be made in the schools where there are students first. Mr. Richmond stated that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has not granted permission to the Department of Public Works to go ahead with planned renovations. However, he stated that OPM gave DPW the green light to go ahead and renovate Wilcox Technical High School even though it is not in the priority list order.

c. Recruitment/Admissions Policy Redraft

A lengthy discussion was held on the recruitment/admissions policy redraft. Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked why not have a pass or fail system and set the bar where it should be? The Committee agreed to change the ninth grade exploratory program grade from a minimum grade of D-(60) to a C-(70). The Committee asked that the Admissions Policy be submitted to the full Board with amendments.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

a. Green Technology

Ms. Ciccone briefly spoke on green technology and how the technical high schools contribute. She also spoke briefly of CTHSS's participation on Speaker of the House, Chris Donovan's Task Force on green technology.

b. Skills USA

The Committee was invited to attend the Connecticut SkillsUSA 33rd Annual State Leadership Conference and Skill Championships to be held on Friday March 26, 2010. The majority of the contests will take place at Vinal Technical High School, and the awards ceremony will take place at New Britain High School. A formal invitation will be sent to the full Board.

c. OCR Update

Ms. Ciccone stated that the training, including the development of a training video and a myriad of focus groups, at Cheney Tech to prevent issues from happening there and at other schools is on-going. The level of awareness has been raised and there is a swift response – the investigation training has been very helpful. Ms. Hopkins-Staten asked what services and support the technical high school system provide to the students (victims). Ms. Ciccone said that there is a trained equity coordinator in each building who is responsible for seeking out victims and working with their parents/guardians.

d. Hazardous Materials Update

Ms. Ciccone briefed the Committee on the hazardous materials found at four of the technical high schools. A meeting was held on February 11th with representatives from the CTHSS; CT State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); the Department of Health (DPH); CONN-OSHA; TRC Companies, Inc., and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to bring all parties together to discuss the available test results and the strategies for addressing the caulk glazing found in the schools. The testing is on-going. A press release from the Superintendent and Commissioner was issued, and principals sent a letter to parents of students with 12 buildings built between the 1950's and 1978 that have not yet been renovated. They will be updated as test results and more information is available.

e. Foundation

The CTHSS Foundation will meet on February 24th at A.I. Prince Technical High School. Included on the agenda will be the 100 Year Celebration of the CTHSS. The goal of the foundation is to promote the CTHSS and hold fundraisers to supply materials to support the trade technologies and offer scholarships to students.

IX. Other Matters

Mr. Tanasi cautioned the Committee on the standards and criteria regarding the pass/fail grade system and whether the by laws need to be changed. The Committee stated that it will go to the full Board and a vote will be taken at a State Board of Education meeting.

X. Public Participation - None

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes approved at the March 10, 2010 meeting