

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee  
Minutes of Meeting Held on  
April 14, 2010

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on April 14, 2010, at the Connecticut Technical High School System, Middletown, CT.

Committee Members Present:	Beverly Bobroske, Chair Theresa Hopkins-Staten
State Department of Education	Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant Pamela Bergin, SDE Office Ray Mencio, CTHSS Consultant Mary Skelly, CTHSS Consultant Jon Waleski, CTHSS Consultant Donna Wallace Obloj, CTHSS Consultant
State Vocational Federation of Teachers	Rick Tanasi, President Ed Leavy

I. Chairperson Bobroske called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. Executive Session – The committee moved into executive session at 9:32 a.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Present at executive session were Beverly Bobroske, Theresa Hopkins-Staten, Patricia A. Ciccone and Robert Lombardi.

The committee reconvened in public session at 9:50 a.m.

III. Consideration of Minutes of March 10, 2010, CTHS Committee Meeting  
Beverly Bobroske made an amendment to the minutes. She stated she would check with the Legal Office as to the approval of the minutes since she was the only member present at today's meeting who attended the March 10, 2010 meeting.

IV. Public Participation

Donna Wallace Obloj – P.E. and Health Education Consultant, CTHSS - As a professional learning community, a dialogue needs to take place to address the issue of grading and assessment. A conceptual understanding of the requisite skills and knowledge necessary to be promoted is crucial before any changes can be made to cut off score for the exploratory program.

Jon Waleski, Advanced Technologies Consultant, CTHSS – Mr. Waleski provided data trends from the last three school years 07-08 through 09-10 that indicate 1) changing the cut off grade from 60 to 70 will impact up to triple the number of students negatively affected by our

recruitment/retention policy; 2) changing the cut off grade from 60 to 65 will impact up to double the number of students negatively affected by our recruitment/retention policy; and 3) the schools most negatively affected by any change in grade policy are the Title 1 schools.

V. Consent Agenda – None

VI. Items Requiring Action - None

VII. Items for Discussion

a. CTHSS Inventory Update

Mr. Chasse shared with the committee an Asset Management Disposal/Transfer of Asset Request Application. It has been piloted at three technical high schools (Howell Cheney, E.C. Goodwin, W.F. Kaynor). This process will allow better documented inventory control on the transfer, disposal and loss of equipment in the schools and it identifies everyone's role in the inventory process. He stated training will be provided to all business managers over the next month. The Storekeepers will conduct on-going inventories throughout the school year and the schools themselves will conduct an end of year inventory. Beverly Bobroske suggested professional development for the teachers and that the principals are included in the work flow.

b. J.M. Wright Tech Update

Ms. Ciccone gave a brief update to the committee on the last meeting held with the Wright Tech Ad Hoc Committee. Professor Tom Cooke will attend the next Ad Hoc meeting and give his preliminary findings; health technology was added as an eighth trade; at the next meeting a discussion will be held on the community colleges and their role within the technical high schools during the school day. She has a meeting this month with Chancellor Herzog and will also plan on meeting twice a year on the community colleges and CTHSS partnership. The Ad Hoc committee also discussed the value of a school name change; the school is striving for Gold LEED status, which is doable. Wright Tech is being used by BBC film Production Company which will generate some funds to the department. An agreement has been signed by CTHSS and the State Department of Economic Development.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten stated that she continues to receive emails on the deplorable conditions at Eli Whitney and asked where Eli Whitney appears on the approved renovation list? Ms. Ciccone stated the 5 schools in the next renovation batch is unchanged. The order was Eli Whitney, Ellis, O'Brien, Wilcox and Wright Tech; however, Wilcox is now number one on the list for renovation. The bonding action has stopped the renovation process. She stated that due to the high levels of PCB readings at Eli Whitney, she will need to address the issue with the appropriate folks.

Committee members reiterated their concern of renovating a school that does not have students while four schools with students are waiting to be renovated.

c. Recruitment/Admissions Policy Redraft

The Recruitment/Admissions Policy will be submitted to the full State Board of Education for action. Beverly Bobroske encouraged staff to attend the State Board of Education meeting to share their comments on the policy.

Beverly Bobroske stated that at present there are only two CT committee members. She will speak to Allan Taylor, Chair of the State Board of Education, to see if the newly appointed member, Pamela Partridge West, can join the committee.

d. Oliver Wolcott Technical High School Incidents' Update

Dr. Lugo reviewed the recent events regarding Oliver Wolcott Technical High School student incidents that have been referenced in the local press. He placed these incidents of student behavior within a short time frame of the total school year. He also shared that based on school indicators of achievement and an experienced faculty, Oliver Wolcott's overall performance and school climate is positive. He also explained that the current administration is experienced with these issues and it has been strengthened by a recent appointment of a new assistant principal.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

PCB – All of the technical high schools have been tested and there are no danger levels of PCB requiring removal of students or staff in most schools. Elevated levels in Wilcox and Eli Whitney are being addressed. Public meetings are scheduled for April and May at all of the technical high schools to update parents, staff and the public. John Woodmansee, Environmental Health and Safety Consultant, CTHSS, is preparing a long term management plan. To date approximately \$502,000 has been spent on testing, repair and abatement cleaning.

LPN Program – The LPN bill is headed to the Senate. The bill calls for six of the ten LPN programs to reopen by January 2011. The cost of tuition will increase and there is a potential enrollment reduction.

BILL 379 – The bill went through appropriations and is moving forward.

IX. Other Matters

Beverly Bobroske asked if all staff is certified. Ms. Ciccone stated yes – all staff are highly qualified in NCLB areas.

X. Public Participation

Raymond Mencio, Trade Technology, Unit Coordinator, CTHSS – Mr. Mencio stated, in the event that the "Grading Policy" is changed that we are aware of the following:

- Time to perform PD with teachers for process to improve student grade level achievement (70 doesn't become equal to a 60)
- The process to help non-performing students and provision help to students not attaining the minimum acceptable grade/score level i.e. summer camp vs. return to sending district.
- In the event students are unsuccessful and create openings, would we be required to backfill with 10<sup>th</sup> grade students that apply and what would be the process to have them caught up with the curriculum?

Rick Tanasi, President, SVFT – He thanked the superintendent and her staff on how the PCB issue is being handled – parents are pleased. He echoed Mr. Mencio's concerns. He asked if we had looked at CIAC's ruling regarding the grade change – are students able to play? Beverly Bobroske stated that there was some discussion.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.