

**Connecticut State Firefighters Association  
Educational Committee Meeting  
Windsor Locks, March 28, 2001**

**Present:**

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn  
Derby Fire School – Peter Wols, Charles Stankye, Jr.  
Eastern Ct. Fire School – Lloyd Niles, Al Hawkins  
Fairfield Fire School – William Kessler  
Hartford Fire School – Chet Haber, Tom Post, Gary Rigerio  
Middlesex Fire School – Fred Dudek  
Wolcott Fire School – Bob Massicotte  
Connecticut State Firefighters Assoc. – Vice President Neal Burrows, Scott Potter, Steve Brown  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – James Wilkinson

There were no representatives in attendance from the New Haven Regional Fire Academy.

There was an update on the status of Raised Bill No. 6542, “An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for Capital Improvement Program for the Regional Fire Schools”. The bill was passed favorably out of the Public Safety Committee by unanimous vote. It has been sent to the legislative committee on Finance, Revenue, and Bonding. A list of members of that committee was distributed. Those who sit on the sub-committee on bonding were identified. It was stressed that representatives of each school need to get word to their respective state representatives and senators of the importance of this bill to the fire service. Tom Post noted that he has been questioned by legislators as to whether the \$24 million requested would be adequate to upgrade all of the regional schools to an acceptable state of repair.

Neal Burrows noted that no one in the state legislature knows how to react to the unified support for this bill. He stated that this is the first time in memory that the state fire service has united behind any one bill. Neal went on to advise that we all need to educate our state legislators about what we do, what we want to do, and what our needs are in order to do it.

Bob Massicotte feels that the Connecticut Fire Academy staff should be represented on this committee. Jeff Morrissette has also requested of President Bunnell that a C.F.A. staff member be appointed to this committee. It was generally felt that representation of the C.F.A. staff could provide valuable input towards coordination of training efforts between the C.F.A. and the regional fire schools. It was also expressed that whoever was selected should have authority to make decisions and commitments for the Connecticut Fire Academy. Jeff Morrissette was mentioned as well as Mark Lewandowski and Fred Piechota. Al Hawkins will discuss the issue with Jeff Morrissette. It was felt that his input would be most valuable to our group.

Bob Massicotte volunteered to draft a mission statement for this committee. It was mentioned that this could help the committee to retain focus on specific goals.

A reminder to all present of Fire Service Day at the state capital on April 5, 2001. Bob Massicotte suggested that instead of eight separate presentations that we should attempt to make one unified presentation about what the regional fire schools are all about.

There was a discussion about what dates would be best for everyone for future meetings. There was also a brief discussion about what geographical area would work best for everyone. These issue remains unresolved. Future meetings could either rotate around the state, or be anchored in one central location. Anyone with thoughts on this issue please bring them to the next meeting.

**Next meeting will be on May 2, 2001 at the Hartford Regional Fire School, Windsor Locks.**

Submitted by,

Al Hawkins