

Connecticut State Board of Education
Connecticut Technical High School Committee
Minutes of Meeting Held on
April 18, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on April 18, 2012, at Eli Whitney Technical High School, Hamden, CT.

Committee Members Present:	Joseph J Vrabely, Jr., Chair Charles A. Jaskiewicz Patricia Keavney-Maruca
State Department of Education	Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent Nivea Torres, Assistant Superintendent Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant Beatrice Tinty, CTHSS Consultant Joseph Campbell, CTHSS Consultant Pamela Charland
Eli Whitney Technical High School	Damian Barnes, Student Isaiah Brunson, Student Lyntina Cook, Student Tevin Thompson-Jones, Student
State Vocational Federation of Teachers	Janis Hochadel, President Edward Leavy

I. Chairperson Vrabely called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Chairperson Vrabely welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged four Eli Whitney students who were present for the meeting. All members present introduced themselves.

The students in culinary arts trade introduced themselves. Upon graduation, Damian Barnes plans to attend Southern Connecticut State University, Isaiah Brunson plans to attend Culinary Arts Institution, Lyntina Cook plans to attend Johnsons & Wales University; and Tevin Thompson-Jones plans to pursue his career in culinary arts.

II. Executive Session

The Committee moved into executive session at 10:07 a.m. for the purpose of updating the Committee on matters involving personnel.

Present at executive session were Committee members: Chairperson Vrabely and Ms. Camhi. Also present was Superintendent Ciccone. Ms. Camhi joined executive session at 10:13 a.m.

The Committee reconvened in public session at 10:40 a.m. Present were Mr. Vrabely, Ms. Camhi and Superintendent Ciccone.

III. Consideration of the February 15, 2012 and March 21, 2012 Minutes

Chairman Vrabely moved, Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca seconded for March 15, 2012, Mr. Charles A. Jaskiewicz seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the February 15, 2012 and March 21, 2012 Connecticut Technical High School Committee meeting as amended.

Vote:	In Favor:	Keavney-Maruca, Jaskiewicz; Vrabely
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried.

IV. Public Participation - None

V. Consent Agenda - None

VI. Items Requiring Action

1. Healthy Food Certification for 2012-13

The CTHSS has opted to not participate in the Healthy Food Certification for the 2012-2013 school year due to the financial impact of the decision. Specifically, the Connecticut State Department of Education's Office of Child Nutrition noted the program is understaffed for its size and the current staffing is insufficient to take on the additional responsibilities. In addition, taking on the Healthy Food Certification will limit the ability to sell certain a la carte items and food created by the Culinary Arts program in execution of their curriculum. The district will be required to spend additional funds on higher food costs and increased staffing requirements. This will further increase the deficit in school cafeteria revenues budget. CTHSS is currently making significant improvements to school meals by updating the meals and nutrition standards for school lunch and school breakfast.

Chairman Vrabely moved, Keaney-Maruca seconded, to accept the CTHSS to not participate in the Healthy Food Certification for school year 2012-2013.

Vote:	In Favor:	Keaney-Maruca, Jaskiewicz; Vrabely
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried.

2. Rolling Capital Equipment and Improvement Plan 2013-2017

Jim Chasse reviewed the district's statutorily required Rolling Capital Plan for fiscal years 2013-2017. The plan requests capital funding in support of attractive, safe, and well maintained facilities and up-to-date equipment conducive to teaching and learning. The CTHSS is legislatively authorized to receive \$28 million in capital funding in fiscal year 2012. Legislative approval to fund this plan will enable the CTHSS to expand manufacturing programs across the district, purchase replacement student transportation busses, replace three (3) outdated telephone systems, provide funding for new equipment and resolve infrastructure repair issues.

3. Technology Plan

The District Technology Plan provides direction and vision around the integration of technology into all content areas with the purpose of improving instruction in both trade and academic areas. The technology plan is to participate in the E rate program which is funding from the district back in the state. In order to participate in the E rate program, all districts must have a district technology plan. CTHSS is part of the institution network where all institutions are under one network. In order to participate in the E rate plan, CTHSS must meet five goal requirements and achieve them within the technology plan. The technology learning environment plan is based on curriculum objectives. Within the plan budget, all hardware needs to be replaced within a 4 year cycle. Every school has a L.A.N. network and wireless. Most program computers must be compatible with the new technology software. All the new technology must be aligned with new curriculum goals.

VII. Items for Discussion

Bullying and Harassment Policies

The CTHSS reviewed the importance of having a positive school culture and the role of the Equity Coordinator (school psychologist, school counselors, instructors) who serve as Title VI, Title IX, Equity, and/or 504 Coordinator in the school setting. In addition, they reviewed the school climate regulation stated in the CTHSS Handbook that is provided to all students and parents each school year. All students, teachers, administrators, school nurses, support staff, maintenance, building and grounds officers, parents and all who enter our school must treat each other with respect. The CTHSS Handbook for students and parents will be amended and the school Principal is responsible for compliance in providing a safe school climate. CTHSS discussed the gay/lesbian bathroom issues and problems that have been resolved. CTHSS emphasizes all climate impacting issues and claims, not just those of protected classes. An example is addressing weight-bias harassment. The CTHSS Equity Coordinator will react quickly to student's who report as being bullied, discriminated or harassed by other students, incidents are recorded in file.

Chairman Vrabely noted that the district is following the statewide discrimination policy.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

CTHSS last reported surplus is approximately 1.6 million and will increase to 2.2 million in continuing savings in fuel and utilities, and in personnel vacancies. CTHSS will move forward in spending surplus revenues to improve health and safety issues with such projects as installation of security camera in school site for Bullard Havens (\$100,000) and Henry Abbott Technical (\$62,000) and Windham Technical (\$16,000). In addition, surplus revenues are being used to finance bonded projects in improving the Oliver Wolcott's library; and repairing the heating system in Windham Technical High School. CTHSS proposed budget to reinstate the School Officer Resource (SRO) Program back to each school for 2012-2013. This program is not implemented by the legislature. CTHSS will request a budget of \$800,000 to 1 million funding to hire SROs for each school. Further discussion for an SRO budget will be noted in the Connecticut State Board meeting. CTHSS proposes some reconsideration from OPM for next budget to hire vacancies in the following areas; 42 instructors, 17 maintenance, 3 Central Office staff and 10 clericals. Chairman Vrabely is in favor of refilling the vacant positions. Finally, ninety CTHSS SkillsUSA students received first place in the regional competition; 78 are going to the national competition in Kansas City on June 22nd.

IX. Other Matters - None

X. Public Participation - None

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.