

CONNECTICUT TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM BOARD

Draft Minutes of Retreat November 26, 2012

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Connecticut Technical High School System Board (hereafter "Board") met on November 26, 2012, at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut.

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Trefry called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Present: Mr. Robert Trefry, Chairperson
Mr. John Barrasso
Mr. Stephan Bundschu*
Mrs. Patricia Keavney-Maruca
Mr. Matthew Nemerson*
Dr. Lillian Ortiz
Commissioner Sharon Palmer
Commissioner Catherine Smith*
Mr. Joseph J. Vrabely, Jr.
Mr. Fitz G. Walker, Jr.

Absent: Dr. Susan Davis

II. Welcome

Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor and Chairperson Robert Trefry welcomed the members of the Connecticut Technical High School System Board ("Board") and thanked them for coming to the retreat. Commissioner Pryor informed the Board that Superintendent Patricia Ciccone has accepted the Westbrook Superintendent of Schools position. Commissioner Pryor and Mr. Trefry thanked Ms. Ciccone for her years of service and invaluable contributions to the Connecticut Technical High School System.

Mr. Trefry gave an overview of the agenda and his expectations for the retreat.

*Mr. Nemerson arrived at 9:20 a.m.

III. Orientation

Robert Rader, Executive Director, Patrice McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, and Nicholas Caruso, Senior Staff Associate for Field Services, Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) gave an orientation session focusing on the roles and responsibilities of board membership, CABE's Board Meeting Guide, the Freedom of Information Act, parliamentary procedures, and ethics. A copy of the orientation materials is included in the official file.

Attorney Karen Flanagan, State Department of Education Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, responded to legal questions that arose during the orientation. CAFE offered to provide the Board with the CAFE Journal.

* Mr. Bundschu arrived at 11:00 a.m.

IV. Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Presentation

Superintendent Ciccone gave a brief overview of the Connecticut Technical High School System. She responded to questions from the Board members on district issues including student admissions, student diversity, policy, capacity, adult programs, etc. A copy of Superintendent Ciccone's presentation is included in the official file of this meeting. The section of the presentation regarding the school facilities and capital funding will be addressed at the next meeting.

V. Meeting Dates of the Connecticut Technical High School Board

There was general consensus that the next meeting will be held on December 19, 2012, at Norwich Technical High School, in Norwich, Connecticut. At that meeting there will be a vote on the 2012-13 meeting schedule. Commissioner Stefan Pryor noted that the Board will discuss the qualification of the new superintendent and the search process at the next meeting.

VI. Connecticut Technical High School System Task Force January 2012 Report

Leah Grenier, Office of Policy and Management (OPM), presented to the Board a one-page summary highlighting the recommendations contained in the "CTHSS Task Force Report" (January 2012). A copy of the report is included in the official file of this meeting. Mr. Vrabely commented that he served on the task force and commended the task force members on their efforts.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the school system could solicit/receive funds from private sources (e.g., foundations).

*Commissioner Smith arrived at 1:30 p.m.

VII. Connecticut Department of Labor (DOL) Status of Labor/Employment

Department of Labor Commissioner Sharon Palmer introduced Patrick Flaherty, Economist, from her staff. Mr. Flaherty gave a presentation on the state and national labor markets and outlook. A brief question and answer period followed. A copy of Mr. Flaherty's presentation will be e-mailed to the board and a copy will be kept in the official file of this meeting.

VIII. Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

Commissioner Catherine Smith of the Department of Economic and Community Development gave a PowerPoint presentation on the state's focus on economic growth and areas in which Connecticut should invest. A question and answer period followed. A copy of Commissioner Smith's presentation will be e-mailed to the board and a copy will be kept in the official file of this meeting.

Proposed Strategic Planning Sessions

The Board members broke out into three groups to respond to strategic planning questions about the school system's customers; faculty and staff; quality, finance and legislation, competition and collaboration; and best practices. Mr. Trefry proposed strategic planning as a board function.

IX. Committees

The Board members were asked to list in priority order the committees they would like to serve on, and to note which of the committees they would be interested in chairing:

- 1) Quality and Process
- 2) Finance and Facilities
- 3) Outreach & Stakeholder Partnerships

The responses were collected at the end of the Board meeting and will be shared at the next meeting. Board members were encouraged to share information regarding best practices and recommend speakers who could facilitate the Board's discussion of how to move the school system forward.

X. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Vrabely, seconded by Mr. Bundschu, the Board adjourned its meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Diane M. Curtis, Administrative Assistant
Connecticut Technical High School System

