

Connecticut State Board of Education
AD HOC Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School
Meeting of January 11, 2010
1:30 p.m.
25 Industrial Park Road
Middletown

Members in Attendance:

Mark McQuillan, Commissioner of Education; Patricia Ciccone, Interim Superintendent, CTHSS; Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent, CTHSS; Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent, CTHSS; Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT); Richard Cavallaro, Principal, H. C. Wilcox Technical High School and President of the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA); Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education; Theresa Hopkins-Staten, State Board of Education; James Chasse, Education Consultant, CTHSS; Peter Cerruto, Chief of Engineering, CTHSS; Ray Mencio, Unit Coordinator for Trades, CTHSS; Al Richmond, Consultant, CTHSS; Jack Condlin, President and CEO, Stamford Chamber of Commerce; Al Sanseverino, J.M. Wright Tech Advisory Committee; Laura Farelli, Office of the Lt. Governor; David Levinson, President, Norwalk Community College; Joshua Starr, Superintendent, Stamford Public Schools

Chairman Condlin called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

1. – 2. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Condlin welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the Committee needs to stay on task with the short timeframe they have. Introductions of the members were made.

3. Consideration of Minutes of December 22, 2009, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Consideration of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting in order to include changes members may have. Changes to the draft minutes should be sent to Patricia Ciccone.

4. Enrollment Study Update

Ms. Ciccone reported on an upcoming interview with Peter Prowda, Ph.D., former Data Consultant for the State Department of Education, for the purpose of commissioning an enrollment study. The CT Data Center at University of CT is also under consideration for the study, and a meeting is currently being calendared. Chairman Condlin said it would be helpful to include the services of Dr. Michael Ego at UConn Stamford, in the study.

5. Review of Stamford Chamber Market Analysis Updates

Chairman Condlin presented a PowerPoint to the Committee to give members a basis for discussion. Topics which were outlined in the PowerPoint included student enrollment, budget, demographics, partnerships with community colleges, businesses and trade unions, and staffing needs. The data represented will be updated beyond 2006 projections for the next meeting. A copy of the PowerPoint will be placed on CTHSS website.

6. Review of CTHSS Trade Technologies and Academic Standards

Members discussed the possible trade technologies that CTHSS offers students. Ms. Ciccone shared a list of trades offered by the CTHSS, by trade technology cluster and by school location. Members were able to draw some preliminary conclusions as to trade technologies with the greatest draw of students. It was suggested that we build out generalized costs to open JM Wright with 7 – 9 of the trades as noted on the grid. The grid is available on the CTHSS website in the Program of Studies for 2009-10.

7. Briefing on CTHSS and Green Technology

Ms. Ciccone presented CTHSS ongoing curriculum revision work to incorporate Green Technology into the existing trade curricula. CTHSS, as an invited working member of Speaker of the House, Christopher Donovan's Green Technology Committee, is presenting technical school sector efforts to infuse Green Technology into Jr. and Sr. Year and its partnerships with the Community College System, CT Clean Energy Development Fund and CT Light and Power Company. Discussion centered on the need to assure that trade technologies that incorporate the emerging Green Technology skills should be made available to any future JM Wright Tech students.

8. Other Matters

- Members discussed the importance of factoring trade technologies that are marketable and attractive to students, families and professional staff.
- Committee members discussed beginning with 7 trades to establish baseline costs associated with reopening JM Wright.
- Ms. Ciccone's staff will work on merging the inside and outside DVDs of JM Wright into a brief 15-20 minute presentation to be shown during an Ad Hoc Committee meeting. The DVD will also be placed on line.
- CTHSS staff will prepare a baseline of costs for the start up of a school with approx. 125 member freshman class to include cost per trade development, staffing costs, etc.
- It was suggested that the architect be invited to attend a meeting with the members to discuss prior designs, changes to costs, etc.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Next meeting, January 25, 2010, 1:30 p.m., CTHSS, Central Office, MCR-2

Minutes approved at the January 25, 2010 meeting