

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 9, 2010

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee (the "Committee") met on June 9, 2010, at Kaynor Technical High School, in Waterbury, Connecticut

Committee Members Present: Beverly Bobroske, Chair  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten  
State Department of Education Patricia A. Ciccone, Superintendent  
Representatives: Robert Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent  
Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent  
Beatrice Tinty, CTHSS Legal Consultant  
James Chasse, CTHSS Consultant  
Raymond Mencio, CTHSS Consultant  
Kimberly Traverso, CTHSS Consultant  
Pamela Bergin, SDE Office  
Nikitoula Menounos, Norwich Tech Principal and  
American Federation of School Administrators Member  
Kerry Parker, Grasso Tech Principal  
Lisa Hylwa, Kaynor Tech Principal  
Mary Ellen Pacific, Kaynor Tech Assistant Principal  
Karen Fort-Scott, Kaynor Tech Assistant Principal  
State Vocational Federation Rick Tanasi, President  
Of Teachers: Janis Hochadel, Vice President  
Kaynor Student Representatives: Carmen Diaz, Junior Culinary Student  
Juan Miranda, Junior Culinary Student

I. Chairperson Bobroske called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. She requested that we have a moment of silence for Mr. Timothy Davenport, advocate/supporter of the CTHSS.

II. Executive Session – None

III. Consideration of Minutes of April 14, 2010 and March 10, 2010 CTHS Committee Meeting

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes of the April 14, 2010.

Vote:	In Favor:	Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

The March 10, 2010 CT Committee minutes will be voted on at the next CT Committee meeting.

IV. Public Participation

Carmen Diaz and Juan Miranda, Kaynor Tech students, shared a scrapbook and talked about their Kaynor Tech experiences. Mr. Miranda stated Kaynor is not the same as public schools, and that he participated in exploratory; found a passion for culinary; and liked that he chose his own path. He noted that his future goal is to attend UCONN and pursue a career in nursing. Ms. Diaz chose Kaynor because her dad is a mechanic and she wanted to help him. She commented that she enjoyed exploratory; met new people and chose culinary because she wants to be a good cook like her grandmother. Her future goal is to attend Johnson and Wales, major in business and own her own restaurant.

Ms. Bobroske complimented the students' public speaking abilities.

V. Consent Agenda – none

VI. Items Requiring Action

a) LPN Tuition Increase

Ms. Ciccone stated that the LPN Program has been reinstated and consolidated from 10 to six locations throughout Connecticut. She commented that the funds that have been allocated are insufficient to cover actual program costs, and that the Committee was being asked to consider increasing the tuition from \$4,950 to \$10,200 for instate students and \$14,245 for out of state students, payable by semester. Ms. Ciccone noted that the program requires 18 months divided into 3 semesters. Possible financial support includes a \$5,500 Pell Grant reimbursement, financial aid, and credit cards. There may be a reduction in the number of applicants, but enrollment projections do not indicate a shortfall.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Committee recommend to the full State Board of Education that the LPN tuition be increased as recommended.

Vote:	In Favor:	Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

b) Apprenticeship Tuition Increase and Requisite Legislative Change

Ms. Ciccone stated that the State Board of Education had already approved an apprenticeship increase from \$100 to \$200, to be followed by a legislative change to the cap presently in place. The legislative change has not yet moved forward. We have subsequently regionalized offerings, however, there is still a deficit and we are now requesting that the board approve a tuition increase to \$275, and continue the process of legislative change.

Ms. Hopkins-Staten moved, Mrs. Bobroske seconded, that the Committee move the request for Apprenticeship Tuition Increase Requisite and Legislative Change to the full Board.

Vote:	In Favor:	Hopkins-Staten, Bobroske
	Opposed:	0
	Abstained:	0

Motion carried unanimously.

c) Position Statement on Admission to a Connecticut Technical High School

In response to the discussion at the June 2, 2010 State Board of Education meeting, CTHSS Superintendent proposes that the Exploratory Program be separated from the Admissions Process and that successful completion of the Exploratory Program is addressed as an instructional issue. Therefore, students do not need to successfully complete phase three in order to remain enrolled. The superintendent was directed by the Committee to prepare information on the grading policy in the CTHSS instructional program including exploratory and return a DRAFT to the committee.

In response to the Committee's questions, it was confirmed that there is one admissions policy in terms of information gathered, qualitative value, and ranking but that individual schools look at their rank list and determine if variation from rank is appropriate to reach protected target groups.

VII. Items for Discussion

a) CTHSS Inventory Update

CTHSS staff stated that the system continues to make improvement using the electronic disposal process. However, more work needs to be done. Some obstacles include weekend construction and insufficient resources for security. The committee asked if a key card system was possible with reference to a log to track who is in the buildings. Dr. Lugo stated that such a recommendation will be included in new construction projects.

b) J. M. Wright Tech Update

Superintendent Ciccone summarized the report of the Ad Hoc Committee. The report clearly stated that J.M. Wright Tech be reopened to serve Norwalk, Stamford, and Bridgeport. There are still issues of cost and timelines, but there is legislative support. However, three occupied schools should be considered for immediate renovations.

c) School Based Health Centers

Superintendent Ciccone stated that principals are working with local health agencies to establish Health Centers within the technical high schools, similar to the one that exists at Prince Tech in Hartford.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

a) Completed PCB Phase I

Public accounting of 11 buildings built from 1950's–1978 has been done. All evening public hearings have been completed. However, there was very little public participation. CTHSS has shared information and findings to public at large. Articles and a press release was ongoing. Testing has been done and abatement will be done, where necessary. A management plan is being developed and will be placed in each school office. Monitoring and testing will be ongoing.

b) LPN Reorganization

Organizational information will be given to the board in July 2010. The LPN programs' six locations are: Bullard-Havens, Bridgeport; Kaynor Tech, Waterbury; Prince Tech, Hartford; Norwich Tech, Norwich; Eli Whitney, Hamden; and Vinal Tech, Middletown. Each location will have a maximum enrollment of 40 students; Norwich maximum is 50.

Just prior to closure the program had approximately 700 applicants. These applicants will be considered first before continuing recruitment. The applicants do state which location(s) they would like to attend. Marketing strategies will be implemented. The CTHSS management is contacting principals; providing information to the Nursing Board of Examiners and will notify applicants.

c) School Resource Officer Cancellation

The State SRO Program has been cancelled due to budgetary concerns within the State Department of Public Safety. One state trooper had been assigned to each CTHSS school to work in prevention and school climate improvement. They teach in special programs and work with students. The only resource now is local police. CTHSS is asking for support from the board by recommending the program be brought back. There is no cost to the State Department of Education. There is a cost to the State Department of Public Safety. Mr. Chasse will get financial information for the next meeting.

IX. Other Matters

Ms. Ciccone stated that the CTHSS Foundation has had some challenges. However, we expect to hold the CTHSS 100 year celebration on October 29, 2010, at the Aqua Turf in Southington, which may generate additional awareness and support for the Foundation. Alumni and retirees are invited as well as the public. Mrs. Bobroske suggested that we consider Tim Davenport's hope that a car be donated for a fundraising raffle.

Superintendent Ciccone was present for the Governor's signing of the bill to open the green technology initiative between Higher Education and the State Board of Education.

New legislation, now P.A. 10-76 describes the CTHSS as a separate budgeted agency. Requirements for bus purchases are included. Committee members asked if seatbelts are a part of the purchase detail. The superintendent stated that seatbelts are a necessary component in all new vehicles.

The Committee members thanked Ms. Hylwa for hosting the meeting at Kaynor Tech. Ms. Hylwa thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and she introduced the Kaynor Tech Administration. Students Diaz and Miranda then took the Committee on a tour of the school.

X. Public Participation

Rich Tanasi thanked the Committee members present, and commented on the low Committee attendance at each meeting. He then, among other items, made complimentary remarks about the superintendent and administration. He stated that the CTHSS still is the best kept secret in Connecticut education.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.