

Connecticut State Board of Education  
Connecticut Technical High School Committee

Minutes of Meeting  
February 13, 2008

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, the Connecticut Technical High School Committee, the "Committee" met on February 13, 2008 at Middletown Central Office.

I. Chairman Coolican called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Donald Coolican, Chairman  
Theresa Hopkins-Staten  
Dr. Alice Carolan

SDE Staff Present: Abigail L. Hughes, Superintendent  
Deputy Commissioner George Coleman  
Robert F. Lombardi, Assistant Superintendent  
Sidney Abramowitz, Principal, Abbott Tech

II. Executive Session: None

III. Consideration of Minutes of the January 9, 2008 Connecticut Technical High School Committee Meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. Public Participation

V. Consent Agenda: None.

VI. Items for Connecticut Technical High School Committee Action:

a.) Increase in Licensed Practical Nurse Tuition for 2008-09 School Year  
Committee members were all in favor of the tuition increase. Ms. Hopkins-Stated moved, Mr. Coolican seconded, that the committee approves the increase in the Licensed Practical Nurse Tuition for 2008-09 school year.

VOTE: In Favor: Coolican, Hopkins-Staten, Carolan  
Opposed: 0  
Abstained: 0

VII. Items for Discussion:

a. Low Enrollment Plan

A sample low enrollment plan was reviewed and commented upon by the Committee members.

b. Affirmative Action Complaints

Committee members discussed their concern over the number of CHRO complaints from the department. Dr. Hughes stated that there are different avenues to file complaints. Staff may file

with Affirmation Action Office or CHRO or both. The Committee decided to ask Mr. Jordan for more specific information about his concerns.

c. Hiring Practices

Ms. Hopkins-Staten noted it was not necessary to discuss this item.

d. Presentation of Wright Tech Recruitment Plan – Mr. Sid Abramowitz

Mr. Abramowitz shared with the Committee the 2007-08 Recruitment Plan and Goals for Wright Tech. It included programs for community awareness, recruitment for freshman, increase for post-graduate students and a proactive connection with area chamber of commerce as well as a partnership with Norwalk Community College to attract, recruit and retain students.

Committee members questioned and discussed several topics with Mr. Abramowitz which included but not limited to: what makes this recruitment different; what is Wright Tech doing to keep parents involved and informed of what is in the best interest for the school; the Bristol Tech model; testing for students; what type of outreach education is being provided to keep students coming; what was successful at Wright Tech; addressing 8<sup>th</sup> graders; dual enrollment and the likelihood of an increase in enrollment this year. Chairman Coolican stated his concern that there are more people involved in the controversy than there are people concerned about the school instead of the students.

e. Prince Tech and Cheney Tech Recruitment Plans for 2008-09

A lengthy discussion was held on Prince Tech and Cheney Tech's proposed involvement in recruiting Hartford students. Committee members questioned the enrollment at the tech schools and if there is space to increase enrollment. Other discussion topics included transportation, integration, renovation costs and cut off score. Deputy Commissioner Coleman requested that 25 spaces be reserved for Hartford students at Cheney and suburban schools. Mr. Coolican asked Deputy Commissioner Coleman if a board resolution to that effect could be delayed and have Dr. Hughes prepare a draft for approval by the Committee. Deputy Commissioner Coleman agreed.

f. Wright Tech PowerPoint and Next Steps

Meetings with identified groups should be scheduled with a detailed chart identifying dates and outcomes.

VIII. Report of the Superintendent

None.

IX. Other Matters

X. Public Participation

Mr. Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers

XI. Adjournment

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