

DRAFT-SUBJECT TO CHANGE

J. M. Wright Technical High School
Ad Hoc Committee
Minutes of April 19, 2010 Meeting
1:30 p.m.
Connecticut Technical High School System, Middletown

Members in Attendance:

Jack Condlin, Stamford Chamber of Commerce; Michael Fedele, Lt. Governor; Patricia Ciccone, Superintendent, CTHSS; Rick Tanasi, President, State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT); Al Richmond, Consultant, CTHSS; Al Sanseverino, J.M. Wright Tech Advisory Committee; Bruce Ellefsen, SDE; Ceferino Lugo, Assistant Superintendent, CTHSS, James Chasse, Fiscal, CTHSS; Richard Cavallaro, Principal, Wilcox Technical High School; Peter Cerruto, Chief of Engineering, CTHSS; Brian Mahoney, Chief Financial Officer, SDE; Theresa Hopkins-Staten, State Board of Education; Moira Lyons, Norwalk Community College

Chairman Condlin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

1. Welcome

Chairman Condlin welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Consideration of Minutes of the April 5, 2010, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Ms. Ciccone moved, Mr. Sanseverino seconded, that the Committee approve the minutes.

Vote: In Favor: All Members Present (see abstained)
 Opposed: 0
 Abstained: Lyons; Hopkins-Staten

Motion carried.

3. Construction Figures and Plans Update – Al Richmond; Jeff Bianco -

Mr. Bianco, Bianco/Giolitto/Weston Architects LLC, presented a power point which outlined the possibilities for rooftop Building Integrated Photovoltaic Panels (BIPV) for the J.M. Wright renovation project. He provided information on the base system; savings with the BIPV system; payback for this system. He also shared information on an enhanced system that is double the size of the base system. He shared a preliminary LEED checklist that illustrates that with the BIPV system, should be able to achieve LEED Gold, which requires a minimum of 60 points.

Renovation timelines were discussed.

Mr. Cavallaro questioned why Stamford will start 90 days behind in the recruitment process. Tech schools begin recruiting as early as September and October. It will create a hindrance in the recruitment process. Ms. Ciccone stated that they wanted to ensure that the construction of the building was completed and that enough funds were available.

Mr. Chasse stated that hiring the additional number of staff prior to January, in order to begin the recruiting process, would increase the operating budget cost from \$310,000 to \$753,000. The staff would consist of a principal, guidance department head, special education department head, a business manager and clerical support. Potential construction date could begin in 2011.

The members agreed to recommend an increase in the funds necessary to begin the recruitment process early in order to let people know what is coming to Stamford in the way of a renovated technical high school. This increase will be noted in the final report to the State Board of Education.

There was a brief discussion on the issue of a holding pattern for the schools slated for renovation. Ms. Lyons stated that the renovation for Wright Tech is a priority and that the State Board of Education must agree that it is important or not and be committed to stand behind it.

Chairman Condlin stated that he was very comfortable with the work the committee has done to date and believes the school can be a flagship for the technical system.

4. Enrollment Report, CT Data Center – Dr. Thomas Cooke

Dr. Cooke gave a preliminary presentation on the enrollment study. His presentation included data provided by the State Department of Education. Members shared their thoughts as to what they thought happened resulting in the enrollment decline at Wright Tech. Dr. Cooke will visit Bullard Havens, Platt and Emmett O'Brien Technical High Schools next week. Mr. Sanseverino requested he meet with the J.M. Wright Technical High School Advisory Committee.

A brief discussion was held on changing the name of the school. Chairman Condlin suggested naming the school 'Academy of Technology'; Ms. Ciccone strongly suggested that the work 'Technical' be included in the name change, to show a correlation with the other technical high schools.

Mr. Cavallaro suggested the committee bring in the regional district superintendents to see what's on their mind and to let them know that we will do well by their kids. Chairman Condlin agreed that he along with Superintendent Ciccone; they would communicate the plan with the regions superintendents.

Ms. Lyons asked what role the Norwalk Community College should play. She suggested the committee have more of a discussion on the shared programs and the opportunity to add another element to the school. Ms. Ciccone stated that she will be meeting with Chancellor Herzog to continue the work with the community colleges.

5. Continued Discussion of the Report to the State Board of Education

Mr. Tanasi stated that with only two meetings to go, is the committee ready to make its presentation to the State Board of Education at its June meeting. Chairman Condlin stated yes.

6. Other Matters

Ms. Ciccone stated that BBC will be filming a movie at Wright Tech from now until the end of May. She stated this was approved at the request of the State Department of Economic Development.

Lt. Governor Fedele stated that in his meetings with superintendents, they felt asking 8th grade students parents' to send them to Wright Tech was a concern as they were not able to assure the school graduated students who were college ready.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting May 3, 2010, 1:30 p.m., Connecticut Technical High School System, MCR-2, Middletown