

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

TO BE PROPOSED:

December 2, 2009

RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education forms an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the future uses of the J.M. Wright Technical High School, to serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education;

appoints to said committee the following individuals:

- State Board of Education Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Committee (3)
- Commissioner of Education
- Interim Superintendent of the CTHSS
- Assistant Superintendents of the CTHSS (2)
- President of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT)
- President of American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)
- State Department of Education (SDE) Chief Financial Officer
- SDE Bureau Chief for Fiscal Management
- CTHSS Business Office Consultant
- CTHSS Chief of Engineering
- CTHSS Unit Coordinator for Trades
- President of the Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- Executive Assistant, Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- President of Norwalk Community College
- Former President and CEO, Pitney Bowes
- Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools
- Executive Director of Stamford Chamber of Commerce
- Senior Member of the J.M. Wright Advisory Committee
- Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
- A Representative and Senator from the General Assembly (2)

charges said committee to (a) fulfill the tasks outlined in the December 2, 2009, "Charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School;" (b) develop by May 14, 2010, a plan to re-open the building for the purpose of providing a technical high school education program overseen by the State Board of Education for the communities of Norwalk, Stamford, and Bridgeport, and others in the region; and (c) to present to the State Board of Education in June 2010 its findings, recommendations and proposed next steps; and

directs the Commissioner to take the necessary action.

Approved by a vote of 8:0 this second day of December, Two Thousand Nine.

Signed: _____

Mark K. McQuillan, Secretary

CONNECTICUT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Hartford

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Allan B. Taylor, Chairperson

DATE: December 2, 2009

SUBJECT: Charge to Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School

I recommend the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on J.M. Wright Technical High School. The Connecticut Technical High School Committee reviewed the proposed composition of the Ad Hoc Committee and the charge to the committee at its meeting on November 10, 2009, as described below.

The State Board of Education shall take steps to form an Ad Hoc Committee to explore the future uses of the J.M. Wright Technical High School, whose operations were suspended on July 28, 2009, for budgetary reasons. The Committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Education.

Committee Composition

The membership of the Committee shall consist of the following members:

- State Board of Education Connecticut Technical High School System (CTHSS) Committee (3)
- Commissioner of Education
- Interim Superintendent of the CTHSS
- Assistant Superintendents of the CTHSS (2)
- President of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers (SVFT)
- President of American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)
- State Department of Education (SDE) Chief Financial Officer
- SDE Bureau Chief for Fiscal Management

- CTHSS Business Office Consultant
- CTHSS Chief of Engineering
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- President of the Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- Executive Assistant, Bridgeport Workforce Development Board
- President of Norwalk Community College
- Former President and CEO, Pitney Bowes
- Superintendent of Stamford Public Schools
- Executive Director of Stamford Chamber of Commerce
- Senior Member of the J.M. Wright Advisory Committee
- Lieutenant Governor, State of Connecticut
- A Representative and Senator from the General Assembly (2)

The Chairman of the State Board of Education shall appoint the Chair of the Committee from the foregoing list.

Timeline

The Committee shall hold its first organizational meeting on or before December 18, 2009, and shall complete its work no later than May 14, 2010.

Charge and Guiding Questions

The charge of the Committee shall be to develop a plan to re-open the building for the purpose of providing a technical high school education program overseen by the State Board of Education for the communities of Norwalk, Stamford, and Bridgeport, and others in the region.

To meet its charge, the Committee must address questions 1-4 below, as well as others raised by the Committee.

1. What will the business and labor needs be of the Stamford region over the next 10 years?
2. What new and/or enhanced programs must J.M. Wright offer in order to attract and enlist a total student enrollment of between 450-500 students by 2016?
3. What role, if any, should the Norwalk Community College play in developing the program offerings and staffing of the new J.M. Wright?
4. What will the staffing needs of J.M. Wright be for the new programs, and what additional staffing may be needed to implement the Department's secondary reform initiative, as described in "The Connecticut Plan" and new federal requirements associated with No Child Left Behind?
5. Other questions developed by the Committee.

Enrollment Study

To answer these questions, and specifically question 2 above, the Committee must demonstrate that it is highly probable that the enrollment target of 450-500 students will be attained and is sustainable. Such conclusions must be grounded in: (1) survey data or studies of the background characteristics of the families and students likely to attend the school; (2) appropriate, reliable measures of parents' commitment to send their student(s) to J.M. Wright; (3) successful public outreach and communications with stakeholders to ensure meaningful understanding of the proposed program of study; and/or (4) other factors demonstrating the building's viability as a technical high school.

As needed, the Ad Hoc Committee may expend up to \$20,000 to complete such a study.

Analysis of Options

At the conclusion of the enrollment study and the provision of answers for each of the questions posed, the Committee shall next turn its attention to answering these questions:

1. Is it clear, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the new programs proposed for J.M. Wright will produce an enrollment of 450-500 students by 2016?
2. If the answer is "yes," then what will the projected costs be to renovate, staff, and open the building as soon as the 2011-12 school year, or at a later date?
3. If the answer is "no," then what alternative uses of the building should be considered instead, and how might these uses reflect the needs of the region?

Report to the State Board of Education

At the conclusion of this analysis, the Committee shall appear before the State Board of Education at its regular meeting in June 2010 to report its finding, recommendations, and proposed next steps. The Board shall vote to accept, alter, or reject the Committee's recommendations no later than its regular meeting in July 2010 and instruct the Committee on what next steps, if any, it must take on behalf of the Board.

Any legislative proposals to emerge from these recommendations shall be developed by the State Board of Education for the long session of the 2011-2012 biennium.