

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

Meeting – August 25, 2005 – 19:00

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 19:20 with the following members present:

Burrville Fire School – Richard Winn

Eastern Connecticut Fire School – Al Hawkins

Hartford Fire School - Chet Haber, Jim Baldis

New Haven Regional Fire Academy – Bill Seward

Valley Fire Chief's Regional Fire School - Charles Stankye, Jr.

Wolcott Regional Fire School – Jim Tzraski, Paul Perrotti,

Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Bill McAllister,

Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Jim Wilkinson, Rich Nicol

Connecticut Fire Academy – Jeff Morrissette

Guests: Don Ouillette, DPW

There was no one present representing the Fairfield Regional Fire School, Middlesex County Fire School, or Stamford Fire Department Regional School.

The minutes of the ~~September~~ July meeting were reviewed. Correction: the injury resulting in a lawsuit at the Wolcott school was a foot injury not a hand injury.

The minutes were approved as corrected – motion by Haber second by Winn.

### 1. Status of properties acquisitions

Hartford County – Hartford county school staff met Thursday, August 18 with the Deputy Commissioner of DOT. The meeting went well and they anticipate having a memorandum of understanding within 30 to 45 days.

Wolcott School – No action by the trustees of Naugatuck Community College.

Burrville School – DPW attorney is planning to handle lease issues. This project is not a high D.P.W. priority now.

Derby School – DPW is ready to work out the details of an advertisement for property. Don needs a detailed description of the needs, Jack Farrell from DPW will handle the process.

Willimantic School – The school directors entered into a new lease agreement with the current property owner. This agreement is for three years with two one year extensions. DPW is ready to work out the details of an advertisement for property. Don needs a detailed description of the property required, Jack Farrell from DPW will handle the process.

Middlesex School – Don Ouillette reported that a memorandum of understanding has been developed between D.P.W. and the city of Middletown. Don wants to handle the construction as a turn-key project that would be given to the school and the city upon completion.

### 2. New Haven renovations

Don Ouillette reported that research revealed that the current school property belongs to the city of New Haven. New Haven's city attorney has suggested that the work be processed by the appropriate city departments including: PZC, city planner, building official and fire marshal. Don has asked for an M.O.U. from the city to allow D.P.W. to complete the renovations as a turn-key project. Don explained that D.P.W. could not operate with local officials trying to control the project.

Don also speculated that a similar situation may arise with the town of Fairfield at the Fairfield Regional School.

### **3. Standardization Committee**

Jim Tzraski reported that the committee is continuing to work on their report. They are planning to get a draft of their report to the Education Committee by late fall.

#### **Other items from membership**

Al Hawkins distributed literature and DVDs from Harmless Hazards on virtual reality training mockups. The general feeling was that the training props were quite expensive and limited in their application. It was agreed that as the development of these systems progresses that the cost will probably come down while the quality will probably increase.

There was a brief discussion about operating budgets and the possibility of getting an increase in the second year of the state biannual budget. Charlie Stankye will call the comptroller to discuss. Jim Tzraski questioned if the state legislature was aware of how much activity is generated at the regional fire schools and whether they are aware of how much outside funding we use to support our operations. Bill McAllister suggested that we work closely with Ted Schroll and Jeff Morrissette to lobby for additional funding.

Jim Tzraski reported that the Ct. Department of Labor wants the Wolcott School to purchase a bond to cover their workers compensation exposure. He also reported on the suit pending that was filed by a former student for a foot injury. That suit seems to be focused on facility maintenance.

Jeff reported on the availability of a 1,500 gpm skid-mount diesel fire pump. If anyone is interested they can call him for the contact information.

Bill Seward reported that the DEMHS is planning to train 100 Hazardous Materials Technicians. They are funding 20 in New Haven in a weekday program. DEMHS is also purchasing SCBA mask fit-testing machines.

Meeting was adjourned at 21:47 – motion by Haber seconded by Wilkinson

**Next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2005 at Wethersfield Co. #3.**

**The September meeting was subsequently canceled, Next meeting will be October 27, 2005.**

Submitted by:  
Al Hawkins, chairman