

# Connecticut State Firefighters Association

## Education Committee

### Meeting minutes

Thursday, September 25, 2014

Wethersfield Fire Department

Company #3, Kelleher Court

The meeting was called to order at 18:05 with the following representatives present:

Burrville Regional Fire School - Robert Norton, Jr.  
Eastern Connecticut Fire School - Al Hawkins, Les Shull  
Fairfield Regional Fire School – Chris Tracy  
Hartford County Fire School - Chet Haber, Jim Baldis  
Middlesex County Regional Fire School – Fred Dudek  
Stamford Regional Fire School – Tim Conroy  
Valley Chiefs Regional Fire School – James Vincent  
Wolcott Regional Fire School – Scott Poulton, Ken Hanks  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Bill Trisler  
Connecticut State Firefighters Association – Ted Schroll, Charles Stankye, Jr.

No one was present representing the New Haven Fire Academy

Minutes were presented from the June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. A correction was proposed by Charles Stankye. The additional bond funding authorized for the regional fire school project was \$15 million, not \$11 million.

Motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected by Jim Baldis, second by Les Shull. The motion passed.

Bill Trisler reported that reimbursement for Hazardous Materials training from grant funding must be presented before 09/30/14.

Bill also reported that the most recent pass rates for Firefighter I exams showed that 71% of candidates passed on the first testing. 80% passed on retakes. The test scores for Hazardous Materials Operational were not as good. There was a general discussion about pass/fail rates for Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials Operational / WMD certification rates.

Bill also reported that the CFA has scheduled make-up practical testing for Firefighter I, Firefighter II and Hazardous Materials Operational / WMD.

Bill reported on a new Application for smart phones written by IFSTA that is a study guide for Firefighter I and Firefighter II. He is looking for feedback from committee members on the App.

Bill also reported on the latest Ben Hurst study guide. He does not feel that the guide offers much assistance to students.

Bill offered to meet with training staff from any of the regional fire schools to discuss the certification process. He would like to engage instructors in conversation about test taking strategies and study principals. CFA Certification has developed a good formal process to evaluate test questions and Bill feels that the testing process is valid.

Bill reported on the IFSAC work in progress to update the certification testing to the new standards. Standards 1021 (Fire Officer) and 1033 (Vehicles and Machinery) are currently under review.

There was a discussion about a Fire Instructor I on-line training program that is IFSAC certified. The program does not include a module for Fire Service Evaluator training as is required for Connecticut Fire Service Instructor I certification.

Al Hawkins asked if the Certification Office will take a stand on on-line certification. Bill indicated that the issues with on-line certification will probably become more complicated. Issues such as Reciprocity and Indemnification will probably further complicate the issues.

There was also a brief discussion about waiting periods, or time on the job required between one certification level and the next. Several committee members present felt that a certification candidate needs some time on the job between one certification level and the next.

**Valley Fire Chiefs Regional Fire School** – Charlie reported that they met yesterday with DCS. Eight contractors presented RFQ packages.

**Wolcott / Cheshire** – The staff from the Waterbury Area Fire School had their third meeting with Tecton yesterday. They are scheduled for another meeting in approximately three weeks.

**Fairfield County School** – Chris reported that last Tuesday he met with Consigli to discuss their project. The next step will be for the State Property Review Board to complete their review of the project. This is anticipated to take about three weeks. The “Fly Through” graphics should be available by next month.

**Burrville School** - The remediation of the site is complete. Staff is engaged in an in-house clean up of the existing site and associated storage.

**Eastern Connecticut Fire School** – Environmental remediation is currently underway. A number of drums of material, some styrene and some solvents were discovered on the property. The estimated remediation cost is \$2 million.

Mark Omasta asked about the existence of any definition of what constitutes a “Regional Fire School”. Chris Tracy volunteered to develop a draft document for discussion. It was generally agreed that this committee should work to promulgate a process to add additional training facilities and to standardize program deliveries.

There was also a general discussion conducted about the estimated 3,000 certified instructors in the state. Some sentiment was expressed that there should be some in-service training developed in order to keep those instructors skills current.

Motion to adjourn by Chris Tracy, seconded by Charlie Stankye. Meeting adjourned at 20:00.

Next meeting will be on October 23, 2014 at Wethersfield Company #3.

Submitted by Al Hawkins