

State Vocational Federation of Teachers



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Testimony of Jan Hochadel, President
State Vocational Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 4200A
Board of Education
April 28, 2015

It is my privilege to provide testimony supporting Joseph Vrabely's appointment to the State Board of Education. Mr. Vrabely has previously served on the State Board of Education, and has been co-Chairman of the CTHSS Board. He has been a tireless advocate for students throughout the state, and especially those students pursuing technical education. He brings common sense and a real world perspective to the issues brought to the Board. He is willing to ask difficult questions, but he is also able to work with other board members to build consensus. He has been a valuable member of both Boards, and he has been missed since his term ended in February.

As the President of the State Vocational Federation of Teachers, I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Vrabely many times on matters of importance to the Connecticut Technical School System and to students throughout the state. I have worked most often with him in addressing the unique demands of technical education. He played an important role in the creation of the CTHSS Board in 2012. He is an outspoken voice for ensuring that the CTHSS remains true to its mission of educating students so that they are career-ready upon graduation. He has sacrificed countless hours from his family and his business to ensure that Connecticut schools are meeting their obligation to their students.

In my six years as an SVFT officer, I have developed a great deal of respect for the dedication and energy of Joe Vrabely. He is always willing to talk on the phone or sit down for a cup of coffee and discuss education and our system. He asks questions and he is willing to listen; he never assumes he has all the answers. He stands up for what he believes is right. He is a public servant in the best sense of the term; he is involved not because of ego, but because he believes he can help make things better for the students of Connecticut. Throughout his tenure on the Connecticut Board of Education, he has done exactly that. I am proud to recommend the selection of my friend Joseph Vrabely to the Connecticut Board of Education.

Thank you.