



STATE VOCATIONAL FEDERATION OF TEACHERS LOCAL 4200A

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Contact: Paul Angelucci, (203) 627-0710, pangelucci@svft.org

Matt O'Connor, (860) 221-5696, moconnor@aftct.org

Teachers Urge Accountability for State Technical High Schools Senior Leadership's "Incompetence and Mismanagement"

Union members vote "NO CONFIDENCE" in CTECS Executive Director, urge new interim superintendent and full audit of resource expenditures in order to protect student learning.

Wallingford - Educators in the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) are calling for the removal of Ellen Solek as the statewide district's executive director. More than 85% of eligible union members participated in online balloting that began October 17 and concluded yesterday with a nearly unanimous vote of "no confidence" in her leadership ability.

"As the experts in our field, we understand what our students need to succeed," said State Vocational Federation of Teachers President Paul Angelucci. "Right now, they are not receiving the support they deserve. We are sending a clear message: we do not accept incompetence and mismanagement," added Angelucci, who headed the Plumbing and Heating Department at Bullard-Havens Technical High School in Bridgeport.

Local union leaders this fall began organizing the petition drive in response to a series of blunders threatening student learning in the system's technical education center and 17 high schools. Solek's tenure has been marred by fiscal mismanagement, a lack of transparency and numerous high-level failures which imperil educators' mission to prepare trade-bound students to meet Connecticut's skilled workforce needs.

"Our students are suffering and not receiving the education that they deserve," said Makenzi Hurtado, who serves as the local union's vice president. "Our educators' working conditions are their learning conditions. That's why we are taking the necessary step to hold the executive director accountable," added Hurtado, who headed the Mathematics Department at A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford.

The results of the petition were shared yesterday with the office of Governor Ned Lamont and will be delivered tomorrow to CTECS' Board of Directors at their next regular meeting. Angelucci also plans to address the requested next steps discussed with the governor's staff, including immediate removal of Solek and the appointment of Nikitoula Menounos as interim

superintendent. He will additionally urge an outside audit in order to assure alignment of system expenditures with the resource investments needed for effective student learning.

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The State Vocational Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 4200-A, represents approximately 1,350 certified educators in the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS). The local union is committed to provide a safe and positive teaching environment for all in the district's technical education center and 17 high schools.