



Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the August 29, 2024 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024 virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Edmond Morin, Wendy Ault, Committee Member, Paulette Bonneau, Committee Member, Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director (Department of Education), Melissa Sherwood, CTE Perkins Grant Manager (Department of Education).

Guests: Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center, and President of MACTE; Dave Keaton, Executive Director of MACTE; Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access and Secondary Partnerships Maine's Community College Foundation; Joan DeCosta, Academic Program Coordinator Maine Community College System; Jason Judd, Executive Director Educate Maine

I. Call to Order: Edmond Morin, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM under the State Board's remote meeting policy.

II. Committee Chair Overview: (*Edmond Morin*) Ed welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Ed expressed his appreciation for being able to attend the CTE Directors conclave in northern Maine.

III. Adjustment to the Agenda: (*Edmond Morin*) No Adjustments to the Agenda.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion by Wendy Ault to accept minutes, as amended; seconded by Paulette Bonneau. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

V. Public Comment: No public comment.

VI. Standing Reports/Updates:

A. Financial Reports

1) Perkins Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*): Dwight reported that they are still in the first quarter and when they wrap that up, an exhibit will be created and presented to the State Board for full Board approval.

2) Briggs Fund Balances YTD (Dwight Littlefield): Dwight stated that they did receive another check over the summer, which brings the funding to over \$200,000. They will receive that statement next month. The check has not cleared.

B. Updates

1) State Director's Update: (Dwight Littlefield): Dwight says that it has been a busy summer. They did the RFA for the bond for the 20 million dollars, and just yesterday sent out letters for the awardees. There were 11 schools that received funding, so they are starting to meet with them. Dwight and his team are still working through the requirements of the Maine Bond Bank. They did a new director training a couple of weeks ago in Pittsfield at Cianbro for the first time in a few years. This is something that they did before Covid to bring them up to speed with all things that are associated with the work that we do. It was well attended with 12-14 people there. A presentation was given on Perkins on accountability, standards programs, and proposals. Melissa has been working on getting out the industry standards grants.

2) Community College Update: (Mercedes Pour/Joan DeCosta): Joan reported that most of the colleges are back in session and enrollment is up, so things are busy. Mercedes said that they only have raw enrollment numbers right now. What she would like to bring to this committee is a sense of are we seeing that same kind of influx in our skilled and technical trades that was seen last year, and those programs were busting at the seams. They won't get that until they get a little bit further into the semester. Mercedes was happy to report that there is a lot of interest in the CTE conference in Lewiston, so she is hoping in partnership with MACTE and the CTE community that their faculty can be there.

3) MACTE Director's Update: (Dave Keaton): Dave said that the people up in Aroostook County were extremely pleased to have had the conclave up in that area. It served a lot of different purposes: it exposed people to a part of the state they were unfamiliar with. The really nice part about it was that all of the CTE's that they visited, you could see the pride in each one of the directors as they were presenting their CTE, their programs, their mission, and their communities. Dave was able to tour each one of the 5 CTE's. The first day, they went to Van Buren, and the second day they were at Frenchville. They ended the third day down at region 2 and Houlton. They are in the throes of planning the fall conference which will be held on Friday October 11, 2024 in Lewiston.

4) Educate Maine Update (Jason Judd): Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd reported that they had just released a teacher workforce report that pulls together all publicly available education data; everything from average wages to size of the workforce and various demographics. Educate Maine is holding an education leaders experience program in early October in Washington County which will have a number of CTE representatives. They are holding their education symposium on December 13th which is a MELMAC Peer Learning Collaboration. There will be a number of CTE Sessions at the event. Educate Maine is prepping for professional development opportunities in the fall and are working on teacher workforce issues.

5) Reports from the Field: (Amanda Peterson): Amanda stated that it was their first day of school and things were quite busy. They won't have all students until next Tuesday because of how their region is structured. They have 10 new teachers on staff so having a soft start so they can figure out how to do this because they are from industry and not necessarily from the field of education. This fall, they will be opening their Educator Prep Program. It is a new program offering in the CTE, like a traditional education classroom in terms of what it would look like in a secondary school. They have a great educator focused on a pre-service model that will help students figure out if this is their path or not. That will continue over the next few months with regional superintendents to get them back into their local schools. They also will have a pathway with Eastern Maine Community College, and they are working with the University of Maine and Husson University.

6) Other Updates: No Updates.

VIII. Old Business – Dwight Littlefield and Melissa Sherwood presented during our last meeting on the use of Perkins Reserve Funds. Melissa put together some options on how this might be distributed. She came up with three options on how to disperse reserve funds to support equipment purchases:

1. Distribute the reserve funds equally. Smaller schools would benefit from this, and larger schools might have chunks of money taken away, but it keeps things simple and enhances equity among CTE Centers and Regions.
2. Base it on enrollment counts. The recommendation is to base the distribution on 3-year averages of end of school year enrollments. Normal local distribution of Perkins V federal funds is not based on local enrollment. It is based on U.S. census data of the population and poverty levels of school-aged youth in the CTE's catchment area.
3. Take a similar approach that we are taking with the industry standards grant this year. This would be to base 50 percent on enrollment and 50 percent on the types of programs at the school, figuring that trades with more expensive equipment would get more funding.

Ed made a MOTION that the Perkins Reserve Funds, which is a onetime distribution, be distributed equally among the 27 different centers and regions. Seconded by Paulette Bonneau, and unanimously voted in favor of option 1.

IX. New Business: Discussion, led by Paulette Bonneau about State Board of Education's CTE Strategic Plan to prepare for an upcoming review by the board.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM

DRAFT