



Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 22, 2024 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2024, virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Edmond Morin, Wendy Ault; Committee Member, and Paulette Bonneau, Committee Member. Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director (Department of Education); Shawn Lagasse, CTE Educational Specialist (Department of Education); Melissa Sherwood, Perkins Grant Manager; and Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist, State Board of Education.

Guests: Joan De Costa, Academic Program Coordinator, Maine Community College System; Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center, and President of MACTE; Dave Keaton, MACTE Executive Director; Jason Judd, Kevin Lavoie, Director, St. John Valley Technical Center; Executive Director of Educate Maine; and Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access, Maine Community College System.

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.

III. Adjustment to the Agenda: (*Edmond Morin*)

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Edmond Morin and voted two in favor with one abstention (Wendy Ault) to accept the December 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

V. Public Comment:

No public comment.

VI. Standing Reports/Updates:

- Financial Reports
 - 1) **Perkins Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Dwight and Melissa Sherwood have met with finance, and everything looks good. It will be an ongoing education to learn all of the pieces.
 - 2) **Briggs Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Received two checks – one for a little over \$10,000 and the other \$48,000. They have been submitted to be deposited.
 - Reserve Funds have been rolled over into the formula. No decisions to be made.
 - When we get FY 25, there can be conversations on how to proceed.
 - The federal budget is working through continuing resolutions. We may see that by the end of March or beginning of April.
- Updates
 - 1) **State CTE Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Will be updating the Perkins four year plan this year. We will revise the existing state plan, which will cover 2024-2028. Working on state performance levels currently and updating some thresholds. These adjustments will align better with the data we have, and this is due in May.
 - Finalizing the federal report to be submitted later this week.
 - The Hall of Flags event was successful. Fifteen CTEs participated. The Legislature wasn't in session, which was unfortunate. We will definitely do it again, and perhaps for two days.
 - Woman in the Trades have been featured in the DOE news. Some have been female CTE instructors.
 - \$20 million bond update – MDOE has met with MACTE leadership, and they've decided to push the process back.
 - The four MJRP projects are going great. Lincoln is complete, Biddeford will be complete mid-summer, bids for Mexico are coming soon, and Oxford Hills is watertight.
 - Houlton will be getting a forwarder in March.
 - Internal audit process has begun; MDOE has been audited twice in three weeks.
 - At the highest enrollment in the ever seen, which is 10,044. Programs and opportunities for students are expanding. The largest growth has been in exploratory programs with freshman and sophomores. Capacity is a challenge. We hope to track students who were enrolled in exploratory programs and see how many matriculate(s) into traditional one or two year CTE programs.
 - School reviews are taking place. Machias and Calais were completed in the fall; Lincoln and Waldo are due in the spring.
 - 2) **Community College Update (*Mercedes Pour*)**
 - Some CTEs that either have no equipment or no programs are running at Community Colleges. We use Aspiration funds.
 - CMCC and SMCC are using the small grant to have two advisors at CTE schools a day or two per week and also at the campus. This has been mutually beneficial and we're looking to extend the grant.
 - The MOU with MDOE about the Aspirations program is finally nearing an end. Counsel is reviewing now. All three parties will have an annual data report.

- Work with math pathways has a number of work groups composed of college faculty and secondary math instructors or secondary administrators that are working on three areas to think about what math pathways would look like for secondary.
- 3) MACTE Update (*Dave Keaton*)**
- The Hall of Flags event went well. Looking forward to more ideas for next year.
 - The bill sponsor for LD 2133 brought in interested parties to listen to concerns and made then modifications reflecting those changes.
 - LD 1942 was a carryover bill with a large fiscal note attached. Dave collected information from the smaller CTEs and submitted it to the revisor's office. This will be assigned a new LD number.
 - LD 1160 was another carryover. The equipment portion of the EPS bill is what was carried forward and discussed. There will be another study for this, and the report is due in January 2025.
 - The CTE Student of the Year Gala is at the end of April.
 - Skills USA is in early March.
- 4) Reports From the Field Update (*Paulette Bonneau, Amanda Peterson, and Kevin Lavoie*)**
- Amanda's third session for her new electric vehicle program in conjunction with Darlings has wrapped up. It ran from mid-December until February break. Students will now go work with automotive dealers going forward. They've had extensive training and will now have off-site experience.
 - UTC moved to enroll track this year for enrollment season. They received 450 applications in one week. They've presented a concept to the regional superintendent's group about adding more space to see what that would look like and feel like. We need to be a part of career advising early on.
 - Exploring ways to move UTC students to Community College campuses.
 - Their 9/10 programming will be opening in four schools this fall.
 - UTC is opening education and electric vehicle programs this fall.
 - St. John Valley Tech was the recipient of the Northern Border Regional Commission Grant worth \$946,000 to help in their forestry program. They will be obtaining ???j unit on May 12 to grow their forestry program.
 - Proponent of LD 1942 – and being fiscally responsible. Kevin is looking to support that endeavor.
 - Working to have things in place for 2025 regarding LD 436.
 - St. John Valley Tech is looking to have a 9/10 exploratory program in 2025.
 - Having discussions with JMG to bring them back to St. John Valley Tech.
 - Biddeford is having current 9th grade students applying for their sophomore year, which is a different trend.
 - They're continuing to do their integrated credit work.
 - Trades for Me will be working with Biddeford in April. It will offer an opportunity for 8th grade girls into programs including non-traditional programs.
 - Biddeford is having a college and career fair on March 7 but holding it during the day this year in hopes to get more students from sending schools.
 - National Technical Honor Society event is coming up at the end of March. Thirty-four students will be inducted.
 - Biddeford's construction project is going well.
 - The athletic training program is running this year at Biddeford.

5) Educate Maine Update (Jason Judd)

- The initial nomination period for the Teacher of the Year program is complete. There were 635 nominations this year, which is the highest total nominations on record. These represent 291 schools, and several were CTE teachers. The process is ongoing.
- Launched applications for Aquaculture Pioneers, which is a registered pre-apprenticeship program in the summer months at oyster farms along the Maine coast. This is for high school students, college students, and adults.
- Launching a project called the Maine Mobile Bio Lab, which is a 52-foot STEM trailer that will go to middle schools across Maine starting in March. This will start with middle schools and may extend to early high school students, families, and adults to raise awareness for life sciences. This mobile lab will be at the State House on March 6 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.
- Sent out a “save the date” for the State Attainment Meeting for Maine Sparks happening on April 3 at the Augusta Civic Center.

Other Updates

- No additional updates

VII. Workshop:

No Workshop Session

VIII. Old Business:

No Old Business

IX. New Business:

Rachel Mann’s Report: *Innovation and Future Readiness, Career and Technical Education in the State of Maine, June 12, 2023*, was discussed amongst committee members. Dave Keaton has reached out to the Superintendent’s Association, the Maine Principal’s Association, and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to present this report.

The standard work continues and will be presented to different organizations at their events. There will be a lot of collaborative-moving parts and professional development work needs to take place. The Innovation Committee is doing great things around the state. Amanda is looking for leaders for this committee and trying to find time for them to connect. The committee is being rebalanced. More to come in the next few months. Todd Fields with Westbrook Regional Vocational Center will be taking the lead for the state. The Innovation Committee will drive conversations and initiatives.

The State Board is a big advocate and wants to work with MACTE on supporting the advancement of CTE in the state of Maine. Wendy Ault stated seeing an action plan, once the committee meets, would be great.

EMCC’s pathway proposal was discussed but does not need to be on the next agenda. A working group for the CTE piece of LD 2221 Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education should be formed.

Handouts at Meeting: (copies in file)

- Agenda
- Rachel Mann Report
- Proposed CTE Pathway Delivery
- Revised CTE Pathway Delivery

Adjournment:

The February 22, 2024, CTE Committee meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Bourget
Office Specialist
Maine State Board of Education