



Career and Technical Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the March 30, 2022 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2022. The following were present: Committee Chair Wilson Hess; Wendy Ault; and Paulette Bonneau (Board Members). Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director; Donna Tiner, Perkins Grant Manager (Department of Education); and Mary Becker, Secretary Specialist, State Board of Education.

Guests: Dave Keaton, Executive Director, MACTE; Jason Judd, Executive Director, Educate Maine; Julie Kenny, Director, Bath Regional Technical Center; Bobby Deetjen, Director of Mid-Coast School of Technology; and Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access, Maine Community College System.

The meeting convened virtually via Zoom under Provision 1 of the State Board of Education's remote meeting policy due to the ongoing surge of COVID-19 and statewide omicron version.

I. Call to Order:

Wilson Hess, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM under the Board's Remote Meeting Policy, Item #1. The Committee will transition back to in person meetings in April 2022 with an option for the public to attend via Zoom.

II. Committee Chair Overview: *Wilson Hess*

Wilson welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

III. Adjustment to the Agenda: *Wilson Hess*

No adjustments to the agenda.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wilson Hess, and voted two in favor with one member abstained (Wendy Ault) to accept the February 24, 2022 minutes as presented.

V. Public Comment:

No public comment.

VI. Standing Reports/Updates:

- Financial Reports
 - 1) **Perkins Fund Balances YTD**
 - Donna Tiner reported that Perkins balances are on track.
 - The next quarter ends on March 31, 2022.
 - She will have a financial report in April.
 - 2) **Briggs Fund Balances YTD**
 - No changes. A check was lost in the mail and a new check is being re-issued.
- Strategic Planning Milestone Review

Wilson Hess reported that there are a number of milestones in front of the Committee this year. The Committee has been focusing on the Perkins reserve funds. Wilson thanked Jason Judd for the work he has been doing with the focus group on systemic barriers.

 - Issue on funding (EPS) equitable distribution of funds between CTE Schools and the Maine Community College Systems (MCCS).
 - Capital facilities funding
 - Middle School funding
 - 9th and 10th grade initiatives
 - Industry skill requirements for the labor markets
 - Emerging work trends
 - MOU between DOE and MCCS for alignment of secondary and post-secondary institutions
 - Part of LD 313 – systemic barriers
- Updates
 - 1) **State CTE Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Reorganization at the Department of Education
 - New Team “Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways” – made up of Adult Education, CTE, and Early College and Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)
 - Tammy Ranger is now Dwight's direct supervisor. Tammy has been with the DOE for 3 years.
 - Another layer between Tammy and the Commissioner. Kelli Deveaux, Associate Commissioner is Tammy's supervisor.
 - Dwight will invite Tammy Ranger to the April CTE Committee meeting.
 - ARPA Funds – Maine Jobs Recovery Plan
 - Submitted RFAs – \$20 million
 - Broke into two phases – 1) equipment and infrastructure 2) specific to infrastructure
 - Hiring a CTE project manager (limited position) and will be interviewing next week
 - Creating steps for requesting applications

- Sessions with an opportunity for folks to come ask questions
 - LD 313 Work Group Meetings
 - The LD 313 working group has wrapped up and the final report is in the Commissioner's Office for review. Once the final stamp of approval, he will send out the work group for review. The final report will go to the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. At that point the report will be made public. Will be working with Jason Judd on the Stakeholder group he is pulling together.
 - Middle School Funding for Pilot Programs
 - Working with Commissioner's Office on Middle School Funding for the Pilot Programs. The funding runs out this year. It was a challenge with the pandemic over the last couple years. Dwight has requested extending the pilots for two years. Asking for a sustainability plan to fund it. Waiting to hear back from the Commissioner's Office to see if they can find the funding to move forward with the programs.
- 2) **Community College Update (*Mercedes Pour*)**
- No report.
- 3) **MACTE Update (*Dave Keaton*)**
- The Commissioner spoke with the Governor and she is putting the request in the supplemental budget and it is going through. The total dollars requested are 3.2 million. \$2.8 in column C (supplies and materials) and \$400,000.00 in column D (operations and maintenance). Dave wants to get the word out as Directors are working on budgets for the next school year.
 - The winter retreat will be held on March 31 and April 1 at the Samoset in Rockland.
 - The CTE student of the year celebration will be held in Lewiston at the end of April.
 - Dave Keaton requested that the FY23 Briggs Grant request be placed on the April Committee meeting agenda.
- 4) **Educate Maine Update (*Jason Judd*)**
- Jason reported that the CTE working group Committee has held two meetings.
 - Meetings have been scheduled from late March through early June.
 - The first meeting was focused on the Perkins Plan and collecting stakeholder input. The meeting was led by Dwight and Donna and there was good discussion about the various updates and work happening with the Perkins Plan.
 - The second meeting was focused on brainstorming a list of systemic barriers and CTE expansion success. Received as many ideas as possible from folks in the room about what they are seeing as systemic barriers. Many of which were transportation, scheduling, funding, supporting students with disabilities, meeting graduation requirements, etc.
 - The list of the working group was very similar to the list of the LD 313 working group.
 - The group is made up of a variety of stakeholders – CTE directors, principals, school counselors, State Board members, adult education folks. Jason will send Mary Becker a list of the people on the group.

- The group is not put together by statute so anyone interested in attending the meetings should email Jason. The meetings begin at 8:00 AM and are held every other week.
- Report writing is completed for each meeting instead of waiting until meetings and the process comes to a close.
- The Committee discussed LD 680: Resolve, to Reestablish the Task Force to Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System
 - Amendment to LD 680 for 2 SBE members on Task Force – appointment of one by Senate President and one by the Speaker of the House. Fern Desjardins has sent a letter recommended the two Board members be Paulette Bonneau and Wilson Hess.

5) Other Updates

- Updates from Directors:
- Julie Kenny reported that they are excited for the retreat beginning on Thursday, March 31. They have a lot of good work to be completed with Judy. On Friday, they will be doing some strategic planning and will start by looking as a group at the Committee’s goals to see how they are currently aligning and how they can continue to collaborate and work together.
- Bobby Deetjen reported that they held their Skilled USA competitions a couple weeks ago. He is anxious for tonight to hear how students did and who won.

VII. Workshop:

Perkins V Reserve Fund Awards

Wilson Hess had a discussion with Donna Tiner around this year’s funds in combination with last years funds. Donna Tiner summarized the discussion she and Wilson had.

A recommendation for the State Board to consider for the FY2022 Reserve funds is to carry them over and combine them with FY2023 funds and do a more significant project. This would remove the requirement for the CTE Directors to obligate the FY2022 funds before June 30th. Being this late in the year spending funds would be difficult, if not impossible, as it is both hard to find the items needed for CTE programs and CTE Directors are extremely busy during this time of year with end of school year responsibilities.

As Perkins Reserve funds may be treated as state level funds, which are not required to strictly adhere to the restrictions of formula funds prescribed in SECTION 131 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS and SECTION 133 SPECIAL RULES FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (b), OCTAE has allowed funds not expended within one academic year may be used in the following academic year. To the extent possible, Reserve funds should be used within the awarding fiscal year to support CTE students and/or CTE programs.

VIII. Old Business:

Perkins V Reserve Fund Awards:

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to set a goal by the end of May 2022 to have a plan to move forward by July 1, 2022. Funds will need to be used by June 30, 2023.

MOTION by Wilson Hess, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to endorse carryover of 2022 Perkins reserve funds and have a developed plan for the use of distribution completed by the end of May 2022.

IX. New Business:

No new business.

X. April Regular Committee Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:00 AM.

Handouts at Meeting: (copies in file)

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the February 24, 2022 Committee Meeting

Adjournment:

The March 30, 2022 CTE Committee meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Johnson Becker
Secretary Specialist
Maine State Board of Education