



Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the November 20, 2023 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023, 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); and Sandra Bourget, Office Specialist, State Board of Education.

Guests: Joan De Costa, Academic Program Coordinator, Maine Community College System; Julie Kenny, Director, Bath Regional Technical Center; Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center, and President of MACTE; Bobby Deetjen, Mid-Coast School of Technology; Dave Keaton MACTE Executive Director; 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.

Wendy Ault congratulated Mercedes Pour on being the second recipient of the prestigious award funded by the Mitchell Institute.

Wendy also congratulated Julie Kenny on her new upcoming role as an elementary school administrator at Harriet Beecher Stowe School in Brunswick. Julie has contributed so much to the CTE world; she will truly be missed.

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

No Adjustments to the Agenda.

IV. Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION by Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau and unanimously voted to accept the September 28, 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*)**
 - No update
 - We have a great candidate for the Perkins Grant Manager, and we hope she will begin soon.
 - Priority during the transition is staying on top of applications, approving invoices, and making sure the schools continue to get paid.
 - We did not have to send back any of the Reserve Grant funds to the Federal Government.
 - 2) **Briggs Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - No update
- Updates
 - 1) **State CTE Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Highest enrollment in October that we've ever seen, which is over 10,000. We anticipate enrollment will continue to increase by the end of the year. Largest growth has been in exploratory programs with freshman and sophomores, but all high school grade levels have increased. Non-traditional enrollments have increased also. The term "non-traditional field" means occupations or fields of work, such as careers in computer science, technology, and other current and emerging high skill occupations, for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25 percent of the individuals employed in each such occupation of field of work.
 - Workforce Development and Innovative Pathways group will be giving a presentation at the Educate Maine conference.
 - Governor Mills will be going to Region 3 on November 28; their MJRP project is complete.
 - All other infrastructure projects are going great.
 - Working on a third round of MJRP equipment grants.
 - Will have a \$20 million bond RFA at the beginning of 2024.
 - Will be writing an early childhood RFA.
 - 2) **Community College Update (*Mercedes Pour*)**
 - MCCS saw a large increase in their fall census. Maine free college and early college students are driving the growth.
 - There's urgency behind L.D. 436. If MCCS can be a resource, please reach out.
 - Maine Math Pathways Summit was in November.
 - We have the greatest number of students using the Aspiration fund.
 - Working on an MOU with MDOE and the UMS to put "intention" into legislation.
 - Creating a software system along with UMS to build pathways for programs.
 - 3) **MACTE Update (*Dave Keaton*)**
 - Bobby Deetjen held a CTE Leadership Forum as a pilot, thanks to MELMAC's support. Six schools participated, which totaled over 100 students.
 - A committee has been working on L.D. 436 and making plans.
 - Directors gave input regarding Chapter 115 and will submit a document that Amanda Peterson will present.

- An innovation committee has been working on a roll out of the national research, and they intend to share the report with the CTE Task Force. Rachel Mann will present her report at the December 21 CTE meeting.

4) Reports From the Field Update (*Julie Kenny, Paulette Bonneau, and Amanda Peterson*)

- Amanda has a new electric vehicle program opening next fall and will be having a school program this year. A Switch car arrives next week.
- Open house and parent teacher conferences are this week for the United Technology Center.
- The standards committee has started to develop a timeline around drafts and work with the MCLA. Hoping to have them mid-February or early March.
- Amanda attended a great event with the MPA.
- Bobby has been working closely with the St. George Municipal School on a PreK-8 CTE maker space project. They are semi-finalist for the YASS prize, being one of two public schools to be recognized – which guarantees them at least \$200,000. Lots of community involvement. The goal is to get every age involved from Pre-K to grade 12. They will be presenting at Educate Maine.
- Julie has lots of live work and is working with the Rotary to get the house they are building together completed.
- Paulette’s assistant director along with Lewiston’s assistant director presented at the Vice Principals’ Association on the benefits of CTE and how it could help them program for their students.

5) Educate Maine Update (*Jason Judd*)

- No update – Jason Judd not in attendance.

Other Updates

- No additional updates

VII. Workshop:

No Workshop Session

VIII. Old Business:

No Old Business

IX. New Business:

Dwight Littlefield reported that at the end of last year, SBE voted on and rolled in a good portion of FY 24 Reserve funds (close to \$400,000) along with FY23 Reserve funds into the formula, for a total of \$782,000. Twelve CTEs committed to the Academic Integration project, which was FY22 and FY23 funds. Dwight worked with finance, and we do not have to send any FY22 funds back to the Federal Government. There may not be a lot of Reserve funds available for project this year.

Dave Keaton submitted a MACTE FY24 Briggs Grant update report. The report included CTE initiatives, professional development activities, how things align with SBE’s Strategic Plan, and a breakdown of budgeted vs. actual costs. Dave also submitted the Summer Conclave program and the Fall Conference agenda, which had the largest attendees at 515. The CTE Student of the Year will take place in the spring of 2024.

Paulette Bonneau spoke on the topic of public comment on Chapter 115 and the working draft L.D. 485 report, from Chair Tom Keller. She noted challenges of people from industry going into the field and that there’s no conditional CTE endorsement, that they now must take seven college courses to achieve

certification, barriers with 3.1.B.1 (which EMCC is working to streamline), and reciprocity. Both the Student Services Coordinator and the Career Counselor do not have endorsements. What are the ELO Coordinators certifications? Directors should put their comments in writing and have representation at the next special C&HE meeting.

Handouts at Meeting: (copies in file)

- Agenda
- MACTE FY24 Briggs Grant Update Report
- MACTE Fall Conference agenda
- MACTE Summer Conclave program
- CTE Feedback on Chapter 115 handout

Adjournment:

The November 20, 2023, CTE Committee meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

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