



Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the September 28, 2023 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, September 28, 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); 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; Jason Judd, Executive Director of Educate Maine; and Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center, and President of MACTE.

I. Call to Order:

Edmond Morin, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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 Wendy Ault, seconded by Paulette Bonneau and unanimously voted to accept the August 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

Discussion included:

- Reacting to a question about the three year timeline included in L.D. 436, An Act to Provide Career and Technical Education Students with Credit Toward High School Graduation for Work Completed in Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions, State CTE Director, Dwight Littlefield, explained that MACTE, which proposed the bill, has been working with the Curriculum Leaders Association along with CTE Directors to start a conversation about what a credit alignment agreement would look like. He said the three years was included knowing that it will take that

amount of time to engage with all the right players. Also, ideally, there would be a common agreement but that agreements might end up being more regional. Discussions haven't gotten to that level of detail.

- With regards to a question about providing a formal presentation to the CTE Committee and the full State Board on the research done by Rachel Mann on the Future of CTE in Maine, it was explained that a group of CTE Directors is taking on the work of discussing next steps based on the report with updates to follow for the CTE Committee and other groups.

V. Public Comment:

No public comment.

VI. Standing Reports/Updates:

- Financial Reports
 - 1) **Perkins Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - No update, will have an update for the October meeting.
 - Priority during Donna's transition is approving invoices and to keep funding flowing to schools.
 - FY22 Reserve Grant funds is ending.
 - FY23 and FY24 Reserve Grant funds are available. It would be ideal to be current and not be a year or so behind. Monies not spent need to be sent back to the Federal Government.
 - 2) **Briggs Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - No update, will have an update for the October meeting.
- Updates
 - 1) **State CTE Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Interviewing next week for the Perkins Grant Manager position.
 - Communicating with Directors on MJRP funds. If funds are leftover, we may have a round three on the equipment side.
 - Four infrastructure projects are going great at their various stages.
 - Post Covid transition means getting back out for school reviews. Machias is scheduled for the end of November and Calais is scheduled for the beginning of December.
 - Federal updates on Perkins V requires MDOE to do an update in the Spring to the State Plan and accountability measures.
 - Shawn Lagasse will begin attending these meetings next month.
 - Meetings will start next month on the LD regarding the comprehensive school model.
 - On February 7, 2024, which is CTE month, CTEs will be in the Hall of Flags.
 - 2) **Community College Update (*Joan DeCosta*)**
 - MCCS is working to implement a new unified student information system. Hoping that will be implemented in one year, the Fall of 2024. It should help with tracking students, gathering data, and advising students.
 - Mercedes Pour has sent out invitations for the CTE conference registration forms to all academic Deans and department heads. We are committed to having them attend the tech updates. There are some concerns that regular attendees are not able to make it this year.
 - 3) **MACTE Update (*Dave Keaton*)**
 - No report as Dave was not in attendance.

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

- Amanda stated things are going well and it's very busy. They are gearing up for recruiting season for next year.
- A group of directors met with the EMCC's Deans of Education department to start to look at the certification courses for teachers, and for developing a better structure in terms of how those courses are delivered. The courses don't change; they'll be put on more of a spiraled model of delivery so there's some overlap in coursework. It will require Directors to be more involved.
- Julie reported that they are in full swing and are continuing to move forward.
- Paulette states her numbers are really good this year. She's in the middle of construction at her location, which will allow for adding new programs in the Fall of 2024. The project is on schedule. The construction does not seem to affect the kids or staff.

5) Educate Maine Update (*Jason Judd*)

- On the planning committee for the MACTE conference taking place next week.
- Will release the Education Symposium registration in October. MELMAC grantees will receive registration information early, which will be held in December in Portland.
- Announced a new partnership with MDOE focused on teacher recruitment and teacher retention. It is not CTE specific, but MDOE has contracted with Educate Maine to implement some of the recommendations of the Teach Maine Plan. They will hold county forums with educators across the state in the Fall of 2023 and 2024. They have a congressionally directed spending application in with Senator King's office for some additional funding for this virtual center. They are meeting with MDOE every other week to work on this, and Jason invited several SBE members to be part of these teams and groups.

Other Updates

- No additional updates

VII. Workshop:

No Workshop Session

VIII. Old Business:

Dwight Littlefield discussed L.D. 313 reports. A task force was created to take this specific work on. The task force consisted of the college industry, non-profits, and CTE instructors. The team did an interim report before creating the final report.

The final report is broken into short-term goals and long-term goals, with a focus on recommendations moving forward. This was not presented to the ECA Committee, but they did receive a hardcopy. Two short-term goals that were addressed are to have more dialog with the Certification Team and engaging with Educate Maine to share reports.

Some long-term goals to address are issues around retirement and the Windfall Provision, which is a federal issue; increasing connections with multiple stakeholders across the state; engaging with younger students; and creating a group to discuss pathways.

Recommendations from the report are as follows: CTE schools get funding for a Student Services Coordinator and a Career Coordinator, but there's no certification for those positions. If Chapter 115 reopens, we should make the changes. Maximizing the ELO coordinator funding; CTEs are tapping into the JMG

organization, which is in seven CTE programs; discussions connecting math and ELA relating to graduation requirements; and acknowledgement that CTE is part of the whole student educational experience. A lot of positive and good conversations came out of this task force. Lot of what we see in motion now and actions, came out of the task force for L.D. 313.

Jason Judd discussed the CTE Systemic Barrier Report. The format of the report is as follows: Defining the systemic barrier and understanding why the challenge exists, offering a variety of possible solutions, and solutions to include legislative action, district changes, MDOE support, and expanding promising practices.

A list of systemic barriers was discussed and included graduation credits; lack of appropriate funding; CTE stigma; and schedules between sending schools and CTE schools. Several highlights of progress were noted including investments in grants to address graduation credits; ongoing study of the EPS funding formula; expanded CTE programs in sending schools; and continued financial support for ELO programming.

Potential areas to explore includes the implementation of graduation credit legislation; focusing on expanding available CTE seats for students; to prioritize expanding best practices with scheduling; and focusing on CTE educator workforce (certification, retirement, training). Lastly, the report reviewed the State Board of Education CTE Strategic Plan Goals, which are: Advocate for Sustainable Funding; Encourage Expanded Program Opportunities; Promote CTE Program Alignment; Reduce Systemic Barriers to CTE; and Promote CTE Outreach, Engagement, and Partnership. We need to keep up the coordination of all committees so we can progress in all areas.

It was noted on how all the reports have a common theme. Several reports identify similar challenges, how can we work comprehensively to address that? Let's be bold and take action! Systemically, what is important to us? Where do we put money and what do we focus on to get the most bang for our buck and make change? Do we choose a couple of items SBE cares about deeply and try to make changes? The passing of L.D. 436 was significant for the state. Ed asked attendees to send him ideas on what they feel are the most important areas to address and how best to go about this work.

IX. New Business:

No New Business

Handouts at Meeting: (copies in file)

- Agenda
- L.D 313 Interim Report
- L.D. 313 Final Report
- CTE Systemic Barrier Report
- Overview of CTE Systemic Barrier Report

Adjournment:

The September 28, 2023, CTE Committee meeting adjourned at 11:39 AM.

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