



Career and Technical Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of January 22, 2026 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) committee held a meeting on Wednesday, January 22, 2026 virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Edmond Morin, Committee Member Wendy Ault, Committee Member Paulette Bonneau, and Mary Becker, Interim Office Specialist, State Board of Education.

Guests: Kevin Lavoie, Director, St. John Valley Technical Center, Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access and Secondary Partnerships, Maine Community College System (MCCS); Jeanne MacDonald-Johnson, Academic Program Coordinator, MCCS; Bill Tracy, MACTE President and Director of Hancock County Technical Center; Bobby Deetjen, Director of Mid-Coast School of Technology; Kate Howell, Deputy Director, Educate Maine.

I. Call to Order:

Chair Morin called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM under the State Board of Education's remote meeting policy, which requires vote be taken by roll call.

II. Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the minutes of October 30, 2025 as presented.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to accept the minutes of December 17, 2025 as presented.

Standing Reports and Updates

1) Department of Education Update (Prepared by Dwight Littlefield and DOE CTE Perkins Grant Manager Melissa Sherwood)

Dwight and Melissa were not available to attend the meeting. Ed read their submitted written updates.

Briggs balance:

- No updates since the December meeting. There is \$46,640 in allotment that remains unobligated and unexpended cash of \$251,934.83. We will need to do a budget order to move this allotment to 3rd quarter if the Committee is planning to do anything with the allotment before April. At this meeting, if you make any decisions on how to use Briggs funds, please let us know.

Perkins updates:

- Comprehensive Annual Report (CAR) due 1/31. Extension to 2/27 granted for fiscal report section submission to allow adequate time for grant closeout and accurate reporting.
- Comprehensive Local Needs Assessments (CLNAs) are open to the secondary and post-secondary CTEs. The CLNA is a requirement of Perkins every two years. This self-assessment is an opportunity for schools to identify challenges, successes, and action steps for the next two years in terms of programming, size/scope quality of CTE offerings, stakeholder engagement,

accountability data, and other topics. The CLNA must inform how schools use their Perkins funds.

- Perkins Reserve: no updates. Schools are continuing to spend down funds

State Director's Update:

- State CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported that their team has welcomed a Middle School CTE/Stakeholder Liaison to the group.
- A reminder that February is CTE Month and that the Department will be hosting a CTE event in the Hall of Flags which has welcomed secondary and post-secondary CTE students from across the state for events.

2) Community College System Update (Mercedes Pour)

- Mercedes Pour from the Community College System says there's been more integration of secondary and post-secondary CTE, e.g. For the first time Community College Students were invited to the Hall of Flags Event. The Community College System is interested in LD 2099, legislation that would update CTE language.

3) MACTE Update (Bill Tracy)

- Bill Tracy, President of MACTE, the group representing Maine's CTE Administrators, says they are continuing to move forward with their capital campaign with the goal to grow MACTE, so it provides more opportunities for all CTE personnel in Maine.
- He said there are expanded regional meetings funded by MELMAC which are facilitated by the DOE CTE team and Educate Maine.
- Bill said MACTE has also been following closely Chapter 115 legislation with a lot of interest in the Portfolio Pathway process. Also, legislation that would reduce the number of students needed for funding a program would benefit schools with a smaller number of students in their catchment areas. This is a measure the State Board has supported in the past.

4) Reports from the Field:

- The CTE directors attending the January meeting reported that they were in the midst of recruitment and budgeting seasons as well as looking to hire new instructors for next year. Also, they are gearing up for this year's Skills USA competitions.

5) Educate ME

- Kate Howell said they have received great feedback about last year's Symposium including for the State Board of Education's presentation explaining what the State Board does.

Much of the CTE Committee meeting centered on a proposal from MACTE seeking Briggs funds for a Summit at Sugarloaf in July. While figures were still being solidified it would be around \$50,000 for this first summit with future annual Summits paid for through the organization's capital campaign. They are talking about bringing in around 75 to 100 participants for a day and half of sessions, including simultaneous workshops. They see this as an opportunity to bring CTE personnel together with businesses in the state and secondary and post-secondary partners. MACTE sees this as an important workforce and relationship building opportunity. The CTE Committee hopes to learn more information about the MACTE proposal prior to presenting it to the State Board of Education for its consideration in the near future, perhaps as soon as next month.

The CTE Committee finished its meeting by approving and sending on to the full Board the Second Quarter Perkins Grant report which the board will consider at the February 12, 2026 monthly meeting.

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Wendy Ault, and unanimously voted by those present to request the State Board of Education approve the Perkins Quarterly report for the period of October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, of the State of Maine Plan for the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for The 21st Century Act (P. L. 115-224) at the February 12, 2026 State Board meeting.

Adjournment

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00 AM virtually via Zoom. Ed thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting at 11:44 AM.