

Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Approved Minutes of the March 28,2024 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 28,2024 virtually via Zoom. The following were present: Committee Chair Edmond Morin, Wendy Ault, Committee Member, Paulette Bonneau, Committee Member, Dwight Littlefield, State CTE Director (Department of Education)

Guests: Joan De Costa, Academic Program Coordinator, Maine Community College System; Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center, and President of MACTE; Bobby Deetjen, Director, Mid-Coast School of Technology; Dave Keaton, MACTE Executive Director; Jason Judd, 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 10:03AM 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 to accept minutes, seconded by Paulette Bonneau. During discussion Wendy Ault asked, given Houlton CTE was getting a forwarder, what this is. Dwight Littlefield explained that this is a big piece of machinery to move logs in and out of the woods. Wendy Ault asked, looking back at the 2/22/24 Community College update, for an explanation about using Aspirations funds so CTE's with no specific equipment or programs are going to Community Colleges to meet their needs. Mercedes Pour explained that the CTE's are hosts but don't have the lab. So, for example, CMCC is running a precision machinery program for the new school in Auburn. Kennebec Valley Community College is also doing this with a welding program. Amanda Peterson says Eastern Maine Community College will have one of UTC's programs in the fall due to space needs. Wendy Ault wanted to know if the Aspirations funds are dual enrollment dollars. Mercedes Pour explained why this is, indeed, the case.

Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

- V. **Public Comment:** No public comment.

- VI. **Standing Reports/Updates:**

Financial Reports

1) Perkins Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*): Dwight says they continue to monitor. With the transition to Melissa Sherwood as Perkins Grant Manager, things are being figured out. Perkins in good shape. Dwight and Melissa are meeting more regularly with finance to understand where everything is. Still have not gotten allocation for FY'25. No word of when. Met

this week with Advance CTE and got federal update. With federal budget situation still waiting to hear. Some additional funds. Doesn't anticipate Perkins will see a cut, but not a lot of additional money for each CTE. The big thing to know with Perkins is what to do with reserve funds. Doesn't have a number yet.

2) Briggs Fund Balances YTD (Dwight Littlefield) : Dwight will send the Briggs spreadsheet so CTE Committee can start thinking about next year and what to fund. Have about \$180,000 to work with. The account tends to fluctuate. Has gotten down to as low as \$115,000 and as high as almost \$200,000. DOE has gotten 3 disbursements this year. Dwight found a description of what the funds are used for. Board has a lot of flexibility in how to use the funds. Must support CTE. DOE doesn't manage the trust. Key Bank does. In the past had a contract with Educate Maine for data research and contract with MACTE which have been a primary focus, but there is flexibility to do other things. Up to SBE how much to spend down the balance. Key Bank has to distribute a certain amount each year based on how well the Trust does in the market. Statements received from Key Bank quarterly. Dwight will share. Paulette Bonneau says SBE chair inquired about the quarterly report. Dwight says he can get them to SBE by its May meeting.

3) State Director's Update: (Dwight Littlefield) : CTE Team in Lincoln doing school review. That's why Melissa and Shawn aren't here today. At Chair's request Dwight explained the review procedure which is part of Chapter 232: Request to Review Program. Happens every 8 years. Some CTE's in Maine choose to use NEASC Review, their choice. Just restarting the process which was closed down due to Covid. Takes 3 days, down from a week. Follow up now one day down from three with updated technology. One other quick update. Some movement on Maine Industry Alliance. We all heard CTE is involved. Not sure how. Now looking like we'll be connecting with Community College System and learn more. Not exactly sure what it means that CTE's are involved. Dave Keaton added that he asked at Commissioner's Education Meeting and that was why we got that response. Jason Judd added that he got a note a couple of days ago from BIW saying they'd like to talk with more CTE's about the defense project. BIW wants to do something this summer with lots of CTE's. Jason says he'll forward that note to Dwight. Dwight says DOE was asked to put together a proposal when they were putting this forward. Were asked to "shoot for the stars" which they did and more. Had to cut it back quite a bit. Paulette asked if this is connected to survey DOE sent to Directors last spring asking about capacity, e.g. with welding. Dwight says they asked for in excess \$100,000,000 to expand because the biggest challenge is capacity. This was toned down a lot. Paulette says can be confusing. Not sure if talking about CTE at CC or secondary level.

4) Community College Update (Mercedes Pour and Joan Costa): Nothing to add since last update. Are closing in on MOU with DOE which outlines a concept of pathways in terms of Aspirations which recognizes the value of moving through whatever you're doing in your CTE Program and making sure Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Credits are aligned with a program of study as you move into whatever comes next. We've been able to craft something with DOE and University System and also protecting space for CTE.

Going to D.C. next week for a policy gathering. One whole afternoon with Advanced CTE and U.S. State Department CTE office. All about how colleges can support Secondary CTE. Good to see what else is happening in the field.

5) MACTE Director's Update (Dave Keaton): Two big events happening. 1) CTE Student of the Year recognition banquet Saturday April 27th at LRTC Green Ladle. Twenty-seven CTE Students of the Year being recognized. Will be a luncheon this year rather than evening. 2) Started planning for Summer Conclave M-W July 29th-31st. It will be in Caribou. Will be at Caribou Inn and Convention Center. Will visit some of the northern CTE's. Will include professional development. Also starting to plan for fall Conference. Last year had more than 450 attendees. Wendy Ault asked if Student of the Year is supported through Briggs. Dave replied that it is being totally sponsored this year by Bridge Academy and will be annually. Wendy also asked about Rachel Mann rollout. Amanda says the Committee has met a couple of times with desire to build out goals based on the Mann report. In April will be taking this to the full group. Group meeting about every other week. Paulette added that MACTE is acting on some recommendations from the report, e.g. mentoring committee for directors and teachers which will tie into EMCC new proposal for courses being taken for certification. CTE will be looked at as Ch.115 is reopened. Pieces in report leading to action by different committees and work groups. Paulette suggests that once things are more solidified with different committee work, to bring a presentation to the CTE Committee so work can be seen systematically and not in isolation. Not there yet. Still a lot of moving parts. Paulette looked at how Briggs Trust can be used to support some of the initiatives coming from Mann report. Don't need to put more Briggs money into reports. Have enough reports that have been done. A proposal could be submitted. Dave Keaton provided an update on L.D. 1942. Revisions made on fiscal note and created an amendment which has been forwarded to Appropriations Committee. The amendment would create a fund to be used for smaller CTE's having trouble meeting ratio of 13:1.

6) Educate Maine Update (Jason Judd): Couple of things coming up. Getting together for a MaineSpark summit on April 3rd. There will be DOE, Community College and CTE representation working together to get more credentials to young adults to meet the demands of the economy recognizing that CTE's are the first schools where people get industry credentials. Educate Maine continuing to do Teachers Forums around the state as part of Teach Maine Center work. A lot of CTE Teachers have come to different forums. Sharing how they transitioned from work force to teaching and what keeps them teaching full time and talk about frustrations. Are recruiting for Education Leaders experience. Educators travel to different parts of the state each month to learn about local economies and visit businesses. Usually, several CTE Directors or instructors in each cohort.

7) Reports from the Field:

Amanda Peterson: We are in enrollment season. As of Friday evening, 976 applications to go through for priority placement. Continue to discuss how we take on more students. Discussion over next few weeks about setting up satellite programs. UTC opening three 9/10 programs in the fall. Need to hire 8 staff members. Three of 9/10's education programs we'll be opening as-well-as EMCC. Pathway to EMCC. UTC has Electric Vehicle program. Pre-engineering we're going to open with University pathway. The big news is that we have had a Mustang GT Electric Vehicle dropped off by Darlings and donated by Ford motor company to help support automotive, mechanics and electronics. Also received 9 brand new engines for students to work on including all the diagnostic tools and other resources. Mustang for us and Ford Lightning for EMCC have some body damage

which will be repaired by UTC students. Real world experience. Had Skills Competition which was a great event with complete buy-in from staff.

Bobby Deetjen: Bobby says putting on Skills Competition is a big deal. Skills was big thing for Mid-Coast. Mid-Coast just finished primary recruitment season. Had 900 to a thousand 8th grade students come through the door in the last month or two and another 250 to 300 shadows and interviews for students to check out program. Our budget was approved last night for Special Education position will be added to our staff. Still feels very strongly Special Ed funding should be added to EPS model. In talks with local partners about adding an aquaculture program. Hoping to qualify for different grants. Spoke about the St. George K-12 CTE initiative which Mid-Coast is involved in. Hoping to open in July of 2025 but September or October may be more realistic. A lot of local contractors are involved. Paulette mentioned that St George might be a good place for SBE to visit when it's done.

Paulette Bonneau. BRTC also in recruiting period. Next week we have New Venture for ME coming in for our 8th grade girls. It's the first time we have held something like that. Trying to build up numbers with non-traditional students and letting all the kids know we're here and what we do and what the options are for them. Construction project is on track. Maybe only 2 weeks behind for some first-floor work. Second is on track which is where culinary program will be. Stuff is starting to get ordered so it will be here. July is proposed date for finishing.

Meeting was Adjourned at 11:17.