

Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of the 04252024 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, April 25, 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) Melissa Sherwood CTE Perkins Grant Manager (Maine 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 10:01AM 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. Ed mentioned news articles on NPR and in the Wall Street Journal referring to Gen Z as the Tool Best Generation. He said he thinks that type of story may send the message that CTE in Maine needs a lot of support. This meeting was an opportunity to get updates on what had been happening for important CTE stakeholders over the previous month. Quite a bit of time was spent discussing Perkins V which is Federal CTE grant money.

III. **Adjustment to the Agenda:** (*Edmond Morin*) No Adjustments to the Agenda.

IV. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the 03282024 meeting.

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

VI. **Standing Reports/Updates:**

Financial Reports

1) Perkins Fund Balances YTD (*Dwight Littlefield*) Littlefield sent the third quarter Perkins report which the CTE Committee approved and sent onto the full board.

Dwight also sent what he referred to as the overall “high level” Perkins Budget for FY’25 which is often posted to their website. Got state allocations about a week ago. He said schools in Maine have been notified about how much money they’ve been allocated. DOE CTE hasn’t gotten feedback on their CAR (Consolidated Annual Report) which was sent in January. The State Plan will be submitted the first of May and await feedback.

Dwight also said the state has approximately \$400,000 for secondary CTE in the Perkins reserve fund. He said we might we want to consider using some reserve fund money to bolster Male non-traditional involvement, for example health occupations and early childhood. Dwight suggested that decisions should be made about reserve funds sooner rather than later to give CTE schools time to plan. Funds need to be expended in FY '25 Budget. He discouraged waiting until February or March to make a decision. Paulette asked Melissa to send committee members parameters on what Perkins reserve fund may be used for.

2) Briggs Fund Balances YTD (Dwight Littlefield) Dwight reported that the SBE, as a board, has about \$180,000 to award through the Briggs Trust.

3) State Director's Update: (Dwight Littlefield): Dwight provided an update on DOE CTE activities. He said much of their time has been working on Perkins. He says they must do a local needs assessment every 2 years and a deep dive every 4, something they were about half through. DOE has put out a Request for Applications for a \$20 Million dollar bond. Any funds CTE Directors get will be included in the bond. He also provided an update on 4 CTE projects which received funding for program, equipment, and facility upgrades through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan which uses dollars from the federal American Rescue Plan. These are in Biddeford, Limestone, Mexico and at Oxford Hills.

4) Community College Update (Mercedes Pour and Joan DeCosta): Mercedes says the Community College System has also been very busy with Perkins. She says this has been a very busy time for their colleges and that MCCS is working to support the MACTE Directors Conference in October.

Mercedes says the MOU involving Maine DOE, the UMaine System and MCCS regarding a protocol about dual and concurrent enrollment is moving forward. She says it will be nice to have that codified and articulated. It's moving through counsel on its way to leadership and noted that 60% of MCCS activity is through its CTE centers or on CTE Pathways.

5) MACTE Director's Update (Dave Keaton): Dave went over 4 things that are active for MACTE right now.

1) Next week is the ACT Region 1 Conference in New York City. This year, in addition to submitting the name of the Maine CTE Teacher of the Year to go onto higher competition, they have 4 categories of people going up for consideration.

2) This coming weekend the CTE Student of the Year celebration is taking place. There are 27 Maine CTE Students of the Year, one for each of Maine's CTE Centers and Regions.

For the first time each of the students will receive \$500 given by sponsors or anonymous donors which they can use for advanced study or tools. The celebration sponsor, Bridge Academy has expressed interest in providing funding in the future.

The Student of the Year celebration will be held in the middle of the day rather than in the evening which will be better for people coming from Northern Maine.

3) MACTE is close to putting the finishing touches on the July 29-31 Summer Conclave. This will be held primarily at the Caribou Motor Inn. Dave says they can do activities in the Caribou/Presque Isle area and go up country to Van Buren and Frenchville where they can spend the day and, on the last day, anchor out of Houlton. They are also meeting to plan the October 11 Fall Directors Conference. Also, the MACTE teachers organization has started coming back around. Their activities were interrupted by Covid. Dave says the group is coming up with great ideas for breakout sessions for the fall conference.

4) MACTE has also been learning about CTE involvement in the Maine Defense Industry Alliance which brings together government agencies, educational institutions, and industry partners to address workforce needs of the Maine Defense Industry.

Committee Member Wendy Ault asked about a follow up to the Rachael Mann report. MACTE President Amanda Peterson says the committee working on that has been very active, meeting every week or two working on identifiers coming out of the report and will bring them to MACTE as a group. This will help drive some of their summer conversations. Innovation is affecting all their other committees. Wondering about increasing capacity by involving other members from CTE Schools. There will be a presentation on marketing and branding and developing the CTE story which will be available to MACTE and DOE, a statewide initiative around that story.

7) Reports from the Field:

Amanda Peterson, CTE Director at United Technology Center and MACTE president says they are in the midst of making decisions about enrollment given capacity issues. The struggle for the UTC Team is which students are in and which are out. Also, a struggle for sending school staff. There are questions about how to increase capacity, including finding temporary space. UTC has five new programs opening in the fall. Four will be offsite. Staff is learning that sometimes when you do things offsite it's not the same as at their home school. Some temporary spaces haven't seen daylight in decades. Starting now they have a lot to do which will continue over the summer. UTC has an Open House next week and are gearing up for awards. UTC has around 20 students graduating with their associate degrees from Eastern Maine and a bunch with their certificates. Chair Morin noted that, during the last meeting Amanda had said that, among new programs, are education programs. She says it's an education prep program, a sort of pre-service program for students interested in elementary or secondary ed. It's aligned with EMCC and will be taught there and their ed department. UTC's instructor will be housed there. Students' education credits while in high school will count toward their education pathways. Amanda says she's received more than 25 excellent applications for the teaching position. She hopes to keep some of the young people local.

Following a question from Chair Morin, Amanda says they currently have a student population of 800 which will grow to a little more than a thousand next year because of new programming. UTC will have four CTE exploratory sites for 9th and 10th graders. Those are three of the new programs we are opening. They are seeking old spaces which must be prepped for students.

Bobby Deetjen, Director, Mid-Coast School of Technology says they are also getting ready for award ceremonies: National Technical Honor Society and overall student celebration. Applications are pretty much wrapped up and they're making those hard decisions. He says Paulette, Amanda, and our school are really fortunate to have that capacity issue. Some other CTE schools in Maine

are not in the same situation and have declining enrollments. It's important to keep that in mind when looking at Perkins reserves.

MCST is potentially looking at an aquaculture program. He says the lobster industry is taking a hit because of warming temperatures in increasing levels of acid. Communities which have traditionally been involved with the lobster industry are having to turn to other pathways. They're hopeful an aquaculture program will give them another pathway. They're looking to shellfish and kelp and seaweed, maybe starting with a part time program and expanding to full time.

Committee Member Wendy Ault asked Bobby what's happening with the St. George Technical program. Bobby says it just received a million federal dollars and are now "over the hump" but applying for other grants. St. George has broken ground.

Committee member and Biddeford Regional Technology Center Director Paulette Bonneau

says she has been busy with the new construction and finalizing details. The work should be completed by the end of July. That's when equipment will come in. Paulette says she is happily surprised by the number of applications she's received for posted positions in culinary, hospitality and technical math and pleasantly surprised by the pool of applicants for the technical math position. On May 8th the State Board of Education is meeting at Edward Little High School. She has requested that the school's CTE section be added to the tour. They are also in the recruitment period. A challenge for them concerns their new athletic trainer program. One of their sending schools will also provide Athletic Training. Biddeford has resumed offering an engineering program they're happy with, but the High School will also be offering an engineering program. She says what they offer in CTE can't be duplicated.

BRTC will have an end of year celebration on May 30th. They will almost fill the Middle School auditorium which has 900 seats. They held their National Technical Honor Society celebration and had 46 students inducted this year.

Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd notes the Maine Spark summit at the Augusta Civic Center has been pushed back to June 3rd. The goal of Maine Spark is to increase the percentage of Mainers who hold Education and Workplace Credentials to 60% by 2025.

On May 9th Educate Maine will be visiting Edward Little High School with its Education Leaders Experience Program.

Also, the announcement of the 16 Maine County Teachers of the year is taking place May 9th at the State House at 2 p.m. SBE members will be receiving invitations.

In Mid-May Educate Maine will be opening an RFP for the Education Symposium which is December 13th. The event is done in partnership with the MELMAC Education Foundation with a significant number of MELMAC grantees at the event. Jason says he would love to see a variety of CTE and Community College proposals.

They were recently approached by the Advanced Manufacturing Center of the University of Maine and MACTE to help with a CDS request, specifically for manufacturing surveys. Applications were due to our two Senators yesterday. He says they were happy to serve as the fiscal agent to potentially get money to the CTE schools.

Jason also noted that Congress has been accepting testimony about making changes to the so-called Windfall Elimination Provision under which state workers can either receive Social Security or Maine State Retirement. This has proved to be problematic for industry folks who are considering moving into education or those trying to recruit new teachers who are considering moving from industry.

CTE Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:02 A.M.