



Career and Technical Education Committee
Maine State Board of Education
Meeting Minutes for May 29, 2025

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on May 29, 2025, 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 (Department of Education), Shawn Legasse, CTE Data/Program Approval Manager (Department of Education) Guests: Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access and Secondary Partnerships (Maine Community College System), Joan DeCosta, Academic Program Coordinator (Maine Community College System), Dave Keaton, Executive Director of MACTE, Amanda Peterson, Director, United Technology Center and President of MACTE; Bobby Deetjen, Director, Mid-Coast School of Technology, Kevin Lavoie, Director, St. John Valley Technology Center, Kate Howell, Deputy Director (Educate Maine)

I. Call to Order: Edmond Morin, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 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. All Committee members remarked on the success of the County Teachers of the Year celebrations. This was organized by Educate Maine

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

IV. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion by Wendy and seconded by Paulette to accept the minutes of 05/05/2025. The motion was passed unanimously,

V. Public Comment: No public comment.

VI. Standing Reports/Updates:

A: Financial Reports

Briggs Trust/Perkins V (*Melissa Sherwood*): DOE's CTE Perkins Grant Manager Melissa Sherwood provided an update on Perkins V federal funding, noting that Maine received the same amount for FY26 as the previous year, approximately \$7 million, and discussed the distribution of secondary and post-secondary funds which are divided equally. The funds are distributed by federal formula using state Census data with

amounts being about the same this year as last although there have been some fluctuations. She also encouraged the Committee to begin considering the distribution of Perkins reserve funds which are the same as last year. Melissa noted that this was the latest the state has gotten its Perkins allotment and that secondary applications are open. The CTE committee approved the Perkins exhibit for submission to the full State Board. In addition, Melissa reported that they are wrapping up FY 25 Perkins. We're in the 4th quarter. So, schools are submitting their final budget revisions.

DOE is also submitting its Perkins State plan after having received an extension. She says there have been no significant changes to the State plan and nothing that needs to be reviewed.

B: Updates

- 1) **State Director's Update:** CTE Director Dwight Littlefield reported that they have not received notification or approval on their Consolidated Annual report and that there has been a significant reduction at the federal level of people working on these.

He says his team has completed school reviews for the year. This year they did 3 full school reviews which required them to be on site 3 to 4 days. They also did a few mid-cycle reviews.

In addition, they are developing a guidance document for Perkins applications. He says that the bond sale went through the previous week and that 11 schools received funding. They're in the process of finalizing a letter of agreement.

He also mentioned upcoming summer trainings for directors.

- 2) **Community College Update:** (Mercedes Pour and Joan DeCosta): Joan said they are knee deep in Perkins and thanked Melissa for her help with opening the post-secondary Perkins grant. Joan says it was really helpful to be able to get a start.
- 3) **MACTE Director's Update:** (*Dave Keaton*): MACTE Executive Director Dave Keaton reported positive outcomes for LD 1764, which was approved unanimously by the Education Committee. This law, if approved, would make it easier for smaller schools to hire Full Time instructors. Dave reported that the ECA did make changes to the bill with smaller schools receiving a half FTE from enrollments of from 8 to 4. Programs with fewer than four enrollments would receive no state funding. He also said that the Education Committee would go for funding this provision outside of EPS.

4) Reports from the Field:

- a) Amanda Peterson, director of United Technology Center in Bangor, reported that her school has 786 students enrolled with 61 on a waiting list but 5 programs with open

seats. She says she'll have 6 CTE Exploratory programs in the fall with from thirty to sixty students in each. She says this is the first summer she has not had to hire a team of people, though she still had to hire a Diesel instructor.

- b) Kevin Lavoie, Director of the St. John Valley Technology Center discussed end-of-year ceremonies and equipment purchases through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank for welding, CDL and Diesel.
- c) Bobby Deetjen, Director of the Mid-Coast School of Technology highlighted strong enrollment and upcoming senior recognition events.

5) Kate Howell (Educate Maine) Educate Maine's Kate Howell announced her promotion to Deputy Director at Educate Maine and the opening of proposals for the annual symposium in Bangor, themed "Connected."

VII. Old Business – The CTE committee approved a proposal for Briggs Trust funding of a MACTE proposal to support strategic planning and professional development initiatives in Maine's CTE system. At the CTE Committee's suggestion, MACTE increased their budget request from \$5000 to \$8,000 to make sure there was enough funding to cover anticipated costs. The full Board will consider this proposal at its next meeting.

VIII. New Business: Educate Maine Deputy Director Kate Howell provided an overview of registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in Maine, explaining their structure, requirements, and benefits. Kate provided a PowerPoint presentation which she said she would forward to members of the CTE Committee. This presentation was something that had been requested by the CTE Committee.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:55 A.M.