



Career and Technical Education Committee

Maine State Board of Education
Minutes of March 27, 2025 Meeting

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Committee held a meeting on Thursday, March 27, 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, and Melissa Sherwood, CTE Perkins Grant Manager (Department of Education), and Mary Becker, Temporary Staff, State Board of Education.

Guests: Dave Keaton, MACTE Director; Mercedes Pour, Director of College Access, Maine Community College System; Joan De Costa, Academic Program Coordinator, Maine Community College System; Amanda Peterson, Director UTC Bangor and President of MACTE; Robert Deetjen, Director, Mid-Coast School of Technology; Kevin Lavoie, Director, St. John Valley Technology; Kate Howell, Director of Workforce Partnerships, Educate Maine.

I. Call to Order:

Edmond Morin, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM under the State Board's remote meeting policy.

Committee Chair Overview: *(Edmond Morin)*

Ed welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and reviewed the agenda. Ed shared his experience attending the CTE Skills competition in Bangor, expressing how impressed he was with the event organization and student skills.

Paulette Bonneau did not attend the event but commented on the importance of rotating staff to participate in such events, as she does each year. She recognizes UTC's efforts in preparing for the competition.

II. Adjustment to the Agenda: *(Edmond Morin)*

No Adjustments to the Agenda

III. Acceptance of Minutes:

MOTION by Paulette Bonneau, seconded by Edmond Morin to accept the February 27, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was passed unanimously

IV. Public Comment:

No public comment.

V. Standing Reports/Updates:

- Financial Reports (*Melissa Sherwood*)
 - 1) **Perkins Fund Balances YTD**
 - Melissa Sherwood reported that schools are on track with spending.
 - The Committee will receive the 3rd quarter Perkins financial report at the next meeting.
 - On-site Perkins monitoring has resumed to be sure schools are in compliance. They interview directors and business managers.
 - 2) **Briggs Fund Balances YTD**
 - Total balance for Briggs account is \$251,934.83.
- Updates
 - 1) **State CTE Director's Update (*Dwight Littlefield*)**
 - Dwight reported that the CAR (Consolidated Annual Report) report has been submitted. He is waiting for approval from OCTAE.
 - They are in the process of putting out the State Plan. He will need to ask for an extension as the plan goes out to the public for 60 days for comments prior to submitting. Last year they had no comments from the public.
 - Starting school reviews which is their primary focus at this time.
 - Watching any bills that are CTE related.
 - 2) **Community College Update (*Mercedes Pour*)**
 - Mercedes discussed the Maine Aspirations Program Credit Limit, which pays for the majority of dual and concurrent enrollment in Maine. The program has exceeded its budgeted amounts, leading to a credit limit of 18 credits for high school students, with an exception of 24 credits for CTE students. This change will take effect with current sophomores, and the program will be managed through the OnCourse platform. The credit limit allows students flexibility when starting out but ensures they stay on their chosen pathway. The program's expansion complements the idea of intentionality in choosing classes. The decision to implement the credit limit was made by the Maine Department of Education, with input from the community college system.
 - 3) **MACTE Update (*Dave Keaton*)**
 - Dave reported on the Skills USA event and shared data of students participating (student competitors, middle school students, college students, directors and advisors). He congratulated UTC and staff for their work in preparing for the event.

- He is in the process of collecting student submissions for the 2025 CTE Student of the Year Celebration on May 3rd.

4) Educate Maine Update (*Kate Howell*)

- Kate updated the committee on their recruitment for the next ELE, (Education Leader's Experience) Cohort. She also updated on the Teach Maine Center that the Department of Education and Educate Maine have partnered and developed. Kate will send a flyer of an upcoming event "Every Teacher a Leader" to Mary Becker to distribute to members of the committee. This conference will be held at Colby College beginning July 30 through August 3. Paulette Bonneau requested a report on apprenticeship development for the next CTE Committee meeting, which Kate agreed to provide.

5) Reports from the Field

1) President of MACTE, Director of United Technology Center: (Amanda Peterson):

Amanda, along with Paulette Bonneau, discussed the enrollment process for their programs, noting that they have shut off enrollment for most programs but are still accepting applications for some programs. A new teacher program has attracted about 100 applicants, with only 40 spots available. Amanda updated the Committee on the progress of the bond projects. Construction has started and there are sixteen programs that are impacted by equipment. Walls are being taken down and offices are being moved. Architects, engineers and construction companies are in the door this week. They have a small crew and are taking advantage of help from students in the building. Amanda shared the uncertainty surrounding budget cuts and the potential impact on high school programs.

2) Director of Mid-Coast School of Technology: (Bobby Deetjen): Bobby shared updates on the recruitment process, noting that some schools are facing space issues while others are not. He announced the upcoming launch of an entrepreneurship program for former students, which will run as a full year course with community college credits. Bobby shared experiences with budget cuts in his district.

3) Director of St. John Valley Technology: (Kevin Lavoie): Kevin discussed the challenges of funding for students participating in Skills USA Nationals, mentioning that fundraising efforts are collaborative and involve the schools. Kevin shared updates on recruitment and enrollment, along with the upcoming induction of students and preparations for national competitions. CNA testing and ELOs are completed.

6) Other Updates

- No additional updates.

VI. Old Business:

No Old Business

VII. New Business:

No New Business

Handouts at Meeting: (copies in file)

- Agenda
- Draft Minutes of the February 27, 2025 meeting

Adjournment:

The March 27, 2025 CTE Committee meeting adjourned at 10:57AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Becker
Temporary Staff
Maine State Board of Education